Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-137
Monday
18 July 1994

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FBIS-LAT-94-137 *18 July 1994*

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Cuba

Haitian Group Rejects Military Intervention

FL1607125294 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Jul 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] The Association of Haitian Residents and Descendants in Cuba has said that it condemns plans for military intervention in Haiti. Their feelings were expressed during a banner-awarding ceremony for the Emilio Barcena Pierre Brigade, which will conduct agricultural tasks in San Antonio de los Banos. At the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples, Association President Hilario Batista Felix read the text of a message on U.S. Government confinement of Haitian refugees at Guantanamo Naval Base.

UN Delegate Rejects Plan on Special Rapporteur's Visit

FL1607142894 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Jul 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Juana Silvera Nunez, a Cuban delegate to the United Nations, has said that inviting the UN high commissioner for human rights to visit Cuba is a sovereign and independent Cuban Government decision. Silvera, the Cuban Foreign Ministry's assistant director for multilateral affairs, participated in the Economic and Social Council's permanent session for 1994, where Jose Ayala Lazo, UN high commissioner for human rights, presented a report.

Silvera's comments followed a proposal by a German delegate, who, speaking on behalf of the European Union, asked Ayala if the special rapporteur could accompany him on his next visit. Silvera said: The German representative spoke on behalf of the European Union and brought up issues that have nothing to do with the topic for which we have been summoned. This issue does not concern the German representative or the European Union, which he claims to represent. Silvera added: We would like to know if the German representative would be willing to invite the special rapporteur to tour his country to see examples of xenophobia and racism.

Robaina Discusses Meeting Mexican Counterpart

PA1607172194 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jul 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina will meet with his Mexican counterpart, Manuel Tello, here in Havana on 18 and 19 July to review bilateral commercial and economic agreements and to review contacts between the two countries.

Robaina has confirmed the initiation of the Association of Caribbean States [AEC] will take place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 July, coinciding with the birthday of Simon Bolivar.

Robaina emphasized the importance of the AEC, saying it is the materialization of a plan that is distinctly Caribbean, a plan based on a decision made by regional countries.

The attitude of the members of the future AEC has been to resist U.S. pressures to exclude Cuba from the new organization, Jorge Bolanos, Cuban vice foreign minister, has told reporters in Havana. Bolanos highlighted the existing geographical, cultural, and historical ties among the future members of the association. He said, however, this association will not be viewed as other regional groups but, rather, as an organization of various nations seeking to increase their economic relations and cooperation.

The AEC will consist of states bordering the Caribbean Sea and other countries, such as El Salvador, that share the common objective of participating in solutions to common problems.

Castro's Message on DPRK Leader's Death

FL1807021294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 16 Jul 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has signed the book of condolences that the North Korean Embassy opened following Comrade Kim Il-song's death. Fidel observed a moment of silence at Kim Il-song's portrait and he expressed condolences to Kim Sung-yong, North Korean ambassador to Cuba. He wrote the following message in the book of condolences:

We lost our dear comrade, Kim Il-song, when his fatherland and socialism needed him most. The worldwide revolutionary movement has lost a great bastion. Cuba has lost a comrade in arms and an intimate friend who will never be forgotten. We are sure that the heroic people of Korea will be able to overcome this hard blow and that Kim Il-song's work will live on forever.

Signed, Fidel Castro.

Politburo Member Greets Vietnamese General

FL1707222594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jul 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Army General Vo Nguyen Giap, hero of the battle of Dien Bien Phu, has arrived in Cuba at the invitation of Army General Raul Castro, Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] minister. Division General Julio Casas Regueiro, Cuban Communist Party Politburo member and FAR first vice minister, welcomed the distinguished guest at Jose Marti International Airport. Casas Regueiro briefed the guest on Cuba's current situation and he highlighted the importance of his visit on the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the Moncada Barracks attack. Vo Nguyen Giap expressed his appreciation for the invitation, which has given him the opportunity to visit the island for the second time.

IAEA Official Praises Atomic Energy Projects

FL1507184894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jul 94

[From the "National Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Dr. Ranga M. (Iyer), International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] division chief, has said in Havana that Cuba has great potential to conduct its projects for the peaceful use of atomic energy and that Cuban scientists are well trained and, above all, motivated. (Iyer) praised Cuba's contribution of radio-pharmaceutical products, which have been used in Europe, Asia, and Latin America for diagnoses and therapy and for detecting certain types of cancers. The Indian expert is participating in a seminar for mining and metallurgy industries executives and directors on the use of nuclear techniques. The meeting concludes today. (Iyer) acknowledged in his opening address that the use of these nuclear technologies requires massive investments and announced that he will seriously consider suggestions by Cuban specialists and find ways to help them.

MININT Note on Tugboat's Sinking Detailed

FL1607183094 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Today's GRANMA includes an Interior Ministry [MININT] note, reporting that the appropriate authorities have investigated circumstances surrounding the sinking of the 13 de Marzo tugboat, owned by the Transportation Ministry's [MITRANS] maritime services enterprise, seven miles north of Havana early on 13 July. The tugboat collided with another enterprise tugboat that was trying to intercept it.

Those who boarded the 13 de Marzo damaged communication equipment inside enterprise facilities before boarding the craft. The MININT note appearing in today's GRANMA points out that although the 13 de Marzo tugboat had been reportedly leaking, those directly involved in the plan acted irresponsibly and went ahead with their plans anyway.

The note adds: The maneuvers of three MITRANS boats in trying to intercept the tugboat and prevent its theft provoked the deplorable incident in which the tugboat capsized.

Two borderguard troop units on patrol nearby immediately rushed to the shipwrecked people's aid. The three MITRANS boats also joined the rescue effort. The MININT note adds that they could only rescue 31 people—who were brought ashore and given medical treatment—given the navigational conditions and the force three wind at that time of the morning. The rest of the people are missing, and the group's leader is under arrest.

This deplorable incident proves once more how unscrupulous individuals are willing to risk the lives of numerous others, including women and children, in their eagerness to fulfill their wish of illegally emigrating from our country and being received as heroes in the United States, where the authorities, as is well known, do not grant them visas to travel normally.

First Secretary of Sancti Spiritus PCC Replaced

FL1607021694 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] At the request of the Politburo, the plenum of the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Sancti Spiritus approved the release of Comrade Jorge Valdes Rodriguez as first secretary of the PCC in that province. The plenum recognized his dedication and the work he carried out during his years at the head of the Party leadership in that province.

The plenum also elected Comrade Pedro Saez Montejo as first secretary of the PCC in Sancti Spiritus. Saez was currently serving as a member of the Havana provincial bureau. Comrade Saez is an historian, he is 40 years old, and he came from the ranks of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] where he served as second secretary of the National Committee. For the last four years he has served in different positions of responsibility in the PCC.

The plenum of the provincial committee was chaired by Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura. Comrade Jorge Valdes will continue in his post as first secretary until 23 August.

Foreign Minister: Leadership Changes 'Natural'

FL1607183894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Jul 94

[From the "National Radio News" newscast]

[Excerpt] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has said that recent leadership cadre changes must be considered natural and normal. Robaina, also a Cuban Communist Party [PCC] Politburo member, told AIN [National News Agency] that while the new first PCC secretaries in six provinces are younger than those who preceded them, age was not considered a primary factor when making the changes. Robaina said that while he believes talent is not always linked with age, on this occasion, as in today's Cuban society, two great things, namely youth and experience, are closely linked. He added that mutual satisfaction prevails. The older members are satisfied, working with the fruit from trees they have planted; those who came later are satisfied, granted the privilege of working with those who taught them; and all are satisfied because they bear witness to something far greater, namely the revolution. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Changes in Provincial PCC Committees

PA1507155394 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Recent changes in the provincial committees of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] have placed leaders characterized by youth and advanced technical and political training at the head of PCC committees in the respective provinces. In an unusual movement of cadres, as political and administrative leaders are known in Cuba, the PCC in the eastern provinces of Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, and Holguin, and in the central province of Villa Clara, promoted people whose average age is 35.

Juan Carlos Robinson, Rider Diaz, Jorge Luis Sierra, and Miguel Diaz-Canel, now leading the provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, Holguin, and Villa Clara, respectively, hail basically from the ranks of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] and in some cases held responsible posts in student organizations.

Diaz, the new first secretary of the PCC in Guantanamo, is known for his previous position as the head of the government in that province. This confirms that all those assuming their new posts have accumulated a certain amount of experience in accordance with their age.

These objective changes, announced almost simultaneously, show that the PCC continues to regard the UJC as one of the principal sources of cadres characterized by a fresh and rejuvenating style. It cannot be forgotten that in the southern Cuban territory of the Isle of Youth there is another Cuban youth leader, Emilio Gonzalez Parra, 39, who is credited with having pioneered communications advances. Nor can we ignore that Carlos Lage and Roberto Robaina, former UJC leaders, have occupied key national posts for some time. While Robaina is the chief diplomat, Carlos Lage is in charge of the country's economic issues; he is also one of the country's vice presidents and secretary of the Executive Committee of the Cuban Council of Ministers.

These and other appointments, such as that of Ricardo Alarcon, current president of the parliament, demonstrate the gradual consolidation of the renewal of cadres in all instances of the party and government, without disrupting the acceptable balance that exists with the historical generation.

Castro Chairs Closing Meeting of Neuropathy Workshop

FL1607022494 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, chaired the closing of the International Neuropathy Epidemic Workshop.

[Begin Castro recording] We cannot imagine a single citizen, who had the epidemic and who has not yet recovered. No one has been forgotten and abandoned to their own luck. We will not give up nor will we ever give up. One way or another, we will overcome. We even worked on the development of the nerve growth rate [factor de crecimiento nervioso]. In the future, there may be some results from this technique. The center of genetic engineering has been working on this for approximately three years because of the influence it could have in the transplanting of nerves. We cannot lose hope for the potential of these nerves recovering a portion of their functions, or in medicines that could possibly work miracles. If we have to wait for miracles, then we will even wait for a miracle before we give up hope of these citizens recovering all their faculties. [end recording]

The scientific workshop included the presence of the commander in chief in three of its work meetings and the participation of 200 delegates from 11 countries and 50 Cuban scientific institutions. [passage omitted]

Raul Castro Congratulates Sugarcane Cutters

FL1507184794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Report by Carlos Sanabria Marrero from Santiago de Cuba; from the "National Radio News"]

[Text] Army General Raul Castro has congratulated the founders of the sugarcane cutting sector's Millionaire Movement. Jorge Risquet, Cuban Communist Party [PCC] Central Committee member, read Raul's letter in Romana Siete, Contramaestre Municipality, where the idea of a Millionaire Movement emerged seven years ago during an assessment meeting held between the Manuel Galan and Reymundo Valdes Brigades and attended by the PCC Central Committee second secretary.

The letter says that this recognition must lend renewed support to the sugarcane sector's recovery, the next sugarcane harvest, and consolidation of the basic cooperative production units:

[Begin Risquet recording] Unfortunately, Comrade Raul explains, I cannot attend the event I myself proposed. However, I managed to fulfill the pledge of fulfilling your hope of having our commander in chief autograph the historical banner of the first million, which you have so zealously kept until now. With his signature, Fidel sends you a warm embrace, which I join, in addition to promising that we will meet again as soon as possible, Raul says. [end recording]

During the same ceremony, Comrade Pedro Ross, PCC Politburo member and Cuban Workers Federation secretary general, presented the Labor Feat flag to the Moncada Barracks 30 Anniversary, the only one in the country that achieved double millionaire status in the current manual sugarcane harvest with meritorious contributions to other agricultural tasks.

In addition, Esteban Lazo, Politburo member and PCC first secretary in this province, awarded the Victoria de Giron sugarcane production cooperative the vanguard plaque for its socialist work.

Raul Castro Praises Agricultural Contingent's Work

FL1707220194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Report by Leonel Perez from Guantanamo Province; from the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] The Frank Pais Agricultural Contingent, in the Second Eastern Front, is the only one in Cuba to grow and consolidate itself, Army General Raul Castro said yesterday as he closed a ceremony to bid farewell to the contingent's founders and to welcome the replacements for this highly productive force. Raul praised the contributions of the vanguard force, which produced approximately 500,000 quintals of tubers, vegetables, and grains for the city of Guantanamo less than two years after it was created.

He described the party example set in the territory as supreme, especially efforts to take short but firm steps on the territory's socioeconomic programs despite the effects of three natural disasters in one year and of the most acute phase of the special period. The Cuban Communist Party [PCC] Central Committee secretary said that no one in Guantanamo can say it cannot be done, reassuring that it can indeed be done here.

Vanguard workers Andres Uro, Enrique Wilson, Pascual Sayu, Ruben Silva, and Wilfredo Moreira later received certificates of recognition on behalf of the contingent's approximately 2,300 people. In a heartfelt ceremony, contingent founders gave their tools to the new contingent members, who pledged to surpass their predecessors' example. Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque and other PCC Politburo and Central Committee members also attended the ceremony, which was held at the Abel Santamaria 17th Column, in Niceto Perez Municipality, and which Raul termed beautiful and combative. Jose Antonio Barroso, mayor of Puerto Real, Spain, also attended the ceremony.

Sugar Industry Minister Hails Youth Labor Army Farms

FL1707220894 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Jul 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres has said that the Youth Labor Army farms have worked to achieve positive results and that he is interested in 15 more of these farms, in addition to the 31 the Sugar Ministry already has. Torres, also a Cuban Communist Party Politburo member, praised the sugarcane sowing and cleaning efforts and the increase in agricultural yield.

Authorities Clean Graffiti Off Havana Monument

FL1507163894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Cesar Romero, director of Havana's community services, by Roberto Cavada; from the "Doing Radio" program—live]

[Text] [Cavada] Cesar Romero has important news for all Havana residents and for the Cuban people. Good morning, Romero.

[Romero] Good morning.

[Cavada] Please tell Havana about the monument to Major General Jose Miguel Gomez.

[Romero] The monument has been inspected and found to have several construction problems and to be showing signs of neglect. We visited the monument with comrade Pedro Chavez, president of the provincial assembly, on 14 July. We worked extra hard yesterday and today on cleaning and repairing it before tomorrow's provincial assembly. Work to clean off the graffiti will continue next week. We will work nonstop to restore as much as possible.

Leprosy 'Eliminated as a Health Problem'

FL1607022794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jul 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] We have learned that with only 859 cases of leprosy out of 11 million inhabitants, we can safely state that this illness has been eliminated as a health problem in Cuba. Such a statement is based on the World Health Organization's definition, which states that the elimination of leprosy as a health problem means reducing the rate of incidence to less than 1 case for each 10,000 people.

The report, which appears in today's GRANMA newspaper, recognizes that each year, approximately 250 to 300 people are diagnosed with leprosy. The Ministry of Public Health directs its efforts toward preventing its transmission.

Cienfuegos Plenum Praises Economic Efficiency Assemblies

FL1807121194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 16 Jul 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] The Cuban Communist Party provincial committee plenum in Cienfuegos Province has described development of the province's more than 3,000 economic efficiency assemblies as positive. The assemblies have confirmed that 84 percent of workers parliament problems have been solved or addressed, which gives great force to this new style of worker's participation in solving many problems.

Some examples include: In the chemical, mining, and energy sectors, the number of bills to be collected and to be paid has been reduced. They have reduced [words indistinct] of the communication workers and the agricultural losses. Meanwhile, the transportation sector is progressing toward profitability despite problems.

With workers' participation in the economic efficiency assemblies and the number of problems being solved on the rise, Cienfuegos is one of the country's top three outstanding provinces.

Francisco Duran, a member of the Cuban Workers Federation's national secretariat, attended the provincial committee plenum in Cienfuegos. He said that the good turnout and the workers' active and repeated participation

in the assemblies, coupled with the established agreements, demonstrate the workers' trust in this process and the fact that they are the main players in solving problems at each work center.

Dominican Republic

Alliance Asks Electoral Board To Call New Elections

PA1507173694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1510 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 15 Jul (EFE)—The alliance led by the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) challenged the 10 May general elections last night and asked the Central Electoral Board (JCE) to call new elections.

The main opposition party based its request for new elections on alleged forgery of electoral registration lists and on the fact that more than 50,000 people, according to party estimates, were prevented from voting.

The PRD has charged a "colossal fraud" stemming from the alleged substitution of voters and the exclusion of individuals from the lists, among other arguments.

The JCE count gives a preliminary lead of 30,000 votes to the ruling Social Christian Reformist Party over the PRD and its allies. This lead has been annulled due to a revision of the null and void and questionable votes, according to Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, the opposition candidate.

The request for an annulment of the elections and for new elections was presented before the electoral tribunal by eight PRD vice presidents and two PRD representatives of the JCE and the Santo Domingo Agreement, which groups the PRD and its allies.

They said "as the electoral process progressed, it became evident it was plagued with numerous and serious irregularities that affected the opposition parties, specifically the PRD and its allies."

The request presented before the tribunal was signed by Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, PRD leader; Fernando Alvarez Bogaert, candidate for vice president of the Republic; Emmanuel Esquea Guerrero and Vicente Sanchez Baret, JCE delegates.

Haiti

Sansaricq on Aristide: 'Quality Roosters Fight Only Once'

FL1507202294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Passage within quotation marks in Creole]

[Excerpts] The main point of the news is the demonstration staged in Champs-de-Mars, Port-au-Prince, last night. The demonstration, to oppose a possible foreign military intervention in Haiti and the international embargo, took place without incident. According to AFP, the demonstration, with the participation of several legislators, attracted about 1,000 persons and targeted President-in-Exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide .

This demonstration was organized by the Committee For the Awakening of National Awareness [Comite Pour Le Reveil de la Conscience Nationale], an organization regrouping the senators of the Bernard Sansaricq office.

The demonstrators used posters to say no to the embargo, no to the occupation of Haiti, and no to the return of President-in-Exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The demonstrators wore t-shirts with the following slogans: No to intervention! Let us be the only rulers of the land! No traitors in our ranks! They chanted bitter slogans against President-in-Exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide. [passage omitted] Let us listen to statements by the president of the unofficial Senate office, Bernard Sansaricq:

[Begin Sansaricq recording] "Jean-Bertrand Conze Aristide [Conze collaborated with the U.S. Marines in the death of Charlemagne Peralte, who had been strongly opposed to the U.S. occupation] needed to leave so he could ask the Americans to invade Haiti. We are telling him not to ask Americans to fight for him. Since he says that he has supporters, he should not have to ask Americans to come and fight for him. He said he was a quality rooster. Well! I myself am a speckled rooster. [applause] If the quality rooster feels that he is strong enough, he should put the Americans aside. We are waiting for him on Rue des Casernes. We are granting him an appointment on Rue des Casernes. We are not concerned in the Senate with quality roosters because we know that quality roosters fight only once, but speckled roosters can fight many times." [end recording]

OCL's Pierre Urges Legal Proceedings Against U.S.

FL1507205094 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Engineer Franck Pierre of the Capois Lamort [OCL] Organization shouts, Injustice! He invites Haitians to take legal action against U.S. President Bill Clinton, either individually or collectively, saying: You have this right, due to the direct or indirect consequences of the measures taken by the latter in violation of U.S. law, Haitian law, and international law.

In a press release dated 14 July, OCL mentions a personage who should be contacted without delay, the Honorable (Mohammed Bejahruh) at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands. According to this OCL note, the organization encourages Haitians who have been victimized by Clinton's various arbitrary measures, especially those relating to the freezing of their bank accounts, their freedom of movement, opinion, and speech; and all those who would be victims—as individuals or through their properties—in the event of U.S. military aggression in Haiti, in an undeclared war against our country, to

consult both Haitian and foreign specialist lawyers for judicial action before the International Court of Justice of The Hague.

Deputy Denounces International Community's Stand

FL1507214394 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Deputy Samuel Milord denounces the position of the international community on the Haitian crisis. It is an aberration, shouts the deputy, who perceives the international sanctions as a means of ruining all chances for Haiti to restore democracy and to begin again economically.

[Begin Milord recording in progress, in Creole] ...measures that have been taken, but that are really irrational. How can you understand the sanctions they tell you they have adopted —to punish whom? They say they are punishing coupists, the men who staged the coup d'etat. Do those measures taken against the country, supposedly against the coupists, affect the coupists on the whole? I do not think so because those measures... [pauses] If you try to understand, for example, that they set the maximum amount that can be sent to a family of five or six children at $50. How can $50 meet their needs? You know that 80 percent of Haitians—almost the entire country—is entirely dependent upon money from abroad. How can you understand that in such a situation, those people can deal with these difficulties? [end recording]

FNCD Deputy Decries World Acceptance of UN Departure

FL1507215594 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Deputy Fignole Jean-Louise, of the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD], calls on Haitian parliamentarians to put an end to the empty-seat policy, saying that this constitutes... [pauses] contributes to the destruction of the country. Deputy Jean-Louis, who gave his opinion on the crisis during an interview with Signal FM, does not think the sanctions will force the military to leave power. After two months of silence, Deputy Fignole Jean-Louis has spoken.

During an exclusive interview with Signal FM, Deputy Fignole asks for an explanation of what is going on in the country. The FNCD deputy says the 30 September 1991 coup d'etat does not fall in line with democracy. Asked about the departure of the UN civilian mission from Haiti, Deputy Jean-Louis said that once the international community accepts such a action, it tacitly acknowledges the Jonassaint government as well. [passage omitted]

FRAPH, MDN Leaders Address 15 Jul Rally

FL1607020194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Let us listen to statements by Louis Jodel Chambelain of FRAPH [Revolutionary Front for Promotion and Progress of Haiti] and by Hubert De Ronceray of MDN [Mobilization for National Development].

[Music from the crowd] [Begin recording, in Creole] [Unidentified speaker] Down with spies! Down with Aristide! Up with the macoutes!

[Chambelain] The people are demonstrating. Once the people begin taking action, I must participate and contribute because I am defending the people. I am defending 6 million inhabitants. I am defending my territory because I am ready to defend my country. In short, I am ready to give my life for everything that is done for the benefit of Haiti.

[Reporter Francois] The threat of intervention is more and more serious...

[Chambelain] I still do not believe in an intervention. President Clinton is a human being just like us. I think that instead of doing so, he should send us ships carrying food, to be distributed to the people, instead of sending them weapons.

[DeRonceray] We are here today to offer solidarity to all those who believe that this situation cannot last. Haiti must come out of this rock-bottom situation. We are among those who want to fight for a solution to this crisis.

[Francois] A military intervention in Haiti is more and more likely....

[DeRonceray] I think it is a very serious mistake to think that democracy can be enforced by canons, rockets, and force. If the United States thinks that the democracy they want to impose on us must be one of canons and weapons, it is a regrettable mistake. We think that a great nation, the world's leading nation, should not allow itself to make such mistakes. [end recording]

Poll Indicates 'Very Few People' Heard Aristide

PA1607143894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1041 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 16 Jul (NOTIMEX)—According to the results of a poll conducted in Haiti, the first radio message delivered by overthrown President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from the United States, broadcast by "Radio Democracy," was heard by very few people.

In his first message to the Haitian people, Jean-Bertrand Aristide told his fellow countrymen that there will be no reprisals against foot soldiers under his mandate and that he maintains his plans to hand over police command to civilians.

The signal transmitted by Radio Democracy, which is financed by the United States, was weak, and a portion of the 45-minute speech was disrupted by an evangelical station that broadcasts near the frequency on which Aristide's speech was broadcast.

During his radio message heard in Port-au-Prince yesterday, Jean-Bertrand desisted from mentioning General

Raoul Cedras and other officers who participated in the September 1991 incident. [passage omitted]

Further on Aristide Request for Action

FL1607021094 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] President-in-exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide called on the international community to conduct a quick, definitive action to expel the Haitian Army authorities. As president of Haiti, I have often repeated that my Constitution prohibits me from seeking military intervention because if I do, I will be dismissed, asserted President Aristide in a press release. It falls on the international community to decide on a quick, definitive action to prompt the leaders of the coup to comply with the Governors' Island agreement signed last year to solve the crisis in Haiti that the military of General Raoul Cedras never respected, pointed out the head of state. I trust the international community to respond to the blatant violation of the agreement, pointed out Father Aristide. Although the leaders of the coup d'etat again asserted that they would not give up power, I am confident of a return to democracy in Haiti in the future, asserted Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The president-in-exile added that the expulsion on 13 July of the UN/OAS observers clearly demonstrates that the military authorities want to pursue their reign of violence and political repression without the testimony of the international community.

Port-au-Prince Mayor Said Target of Government Plot

FL1507190994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul is in danger: A plot against him and others who support President Aristide's return has reportedly been developed. A press release issued on 14 July details gruesome plans for persecution and attacks, pointing out that developing this plot is in line with the de facto government's planned intensification of repression against the population and against staunch democrats in the country. [passage omitted] should this be jamaica?

Authorities Said To Allow Aid Plane To Land 15 Jul

FL1607174894 Kingston RJR Network in English 1700 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] A plane carrying food and medicine for Haitian children that had been delayed by Haiti's military-backed government delivered its cargo yesterday. A spokeswoman for Feed the Children, a British-based organization, said authorities in Haiti had given written permission for its landing in Port-au-Prince. Feed the Children has been feeding 10,000 Haitians each day. UNICEF last month said the rate of rations handed to Haitian travelers was 50 percent up on 47 percent in 1990.

Jamaica

Radio Reports USS Comfort To Leave for Guantanamo

FL1607180994 Kingston RJR Network in English 1700 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The United States Navy ship, the Comfort, will steam out of Jamaican waters for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, today. In Guantanamo Bay, the ship is to be used to support Haitian migration operations. [passage omitted, including indistinct portions]

The processing of Haitians began on the (?Free), which is a 1,000-bed military hospital ship, on 6 June, six days after arriving in Jamaican waters. [passage omitted]

The ship will be leaving for Guantanamo Bay with [words indistinct] Haitians, who will be offered the opportunity of going to a safe haven at Guantanamo Bay or another country.

St. Lucia

Prime Minister To Announce Acceptance of Haitians

FL1607003494 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] The word is that St. Lucia may very well become the fourth OECS country who agreed to provide a safe haven for Haitian refugees. The word is the cabinet of ministers held their regular cabinet meeting yesterday at which the subject of Haitian refugees figured prominently. Prime Minister Right Honorable John Compton is expected to address the nation this evening to announce that St. Lucia has joined the ranks of Dominica, Antigua, and Grenada, which have all agreed to the American request to house the Haitian refugees. According to reports, the American Government will be footing the costs of housing these refugees for a period expected to be no more than six months.

EZLN Calls National Democratic Convention

PA1707030294 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 10 Jul 94 p 12

[Paid advertisement issued by the Zapatist National Liberation Army on 9 July: "Summons to a National Democratic Convention"—all uppercased words as published]

[Text]

WHEREAS:

1. Mexico is immersed in an illegitimate, unjust, authoritarian, state party system in which the violation of human and fundamental rights prevails.
2. The great majority of Mexicans live in extreme poverty, have no part in decisionmaking, and repeatedly face abuses in the administration of justice.
3. Article 39 of the Constitution states: "National sovereignty essentially and originally lies in the people. All public power comes from and is instituted to benefit the people. The people have the unquestionable right to alter or modify their system of government."
4. In light of this grave situation, the transition to democracy is undeniable and cannot be postponed any longer. It will require all forms of struggle.
5. The current legal system is incapable of handling the Mexican people's demand for democracy, freedom, and justice.
6. Democratic change demands a transition government and a new constitution.
7. In light of the recent events surrounding the Indian uprising of 1 January in Chiapas, many sectors of Mexican society have stated demands that agree on the need to convene a broad-based process of discussion and national dialogue.
8. It is necessary to organize peaceful means for society to express its will in this struggle for democratic change.
9. Peace with justice and dignity is only possible through democratic change.
10. Based on Articles 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the Constitution of the United Mexican States, and rightfully exercising our right to free expression, publication, petition, association, and gathering to demonstrate, participate, and discuss the nation's political matters,

WE HEREBY CONVENE A NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN CHIAPAS STATE ON 6-9 AUGUST 1994

THIS NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IS an effort to initiate a process of dialogue and discussion among the country's various social and political representatives who have studied the nation's basic problems and possible solutions.

It is an effort to build a broad, pluralistic, and representative platform, with the greatest respect for those points of view that may differ from ours but agree on the need for democratic change.

It is the effort of society to demand free, honest, and democratic elections and the defense of the people's will.

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IS AN EFFORT TO PEACEFULLY ORGANIZE THE PEOPLE AGAINST THE STATE POLITICAL PARTY AND TO BEGIN THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM, AND JUSTICE.

IT IS AN ORGANIZED AND PEACEFUL EFFORT BY THE PEOPLE TO FIND A DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION GOVERNMENT AND A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR OUR MEXICO.

IT IS AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE DEMOCRATIC CHANGE AS THE ONLY REAL POSSIBILITY OF ATTAINING PEACE WITH JUSTICE AND DIGNITY.

The convention is being summoned in line with the following basic concepts:

I. Participants

1. The following shall be members of the convention:

A. The delegates of groups of citizens and civil, social, and political organizations, as elected by a general assembly.

B. Delegates shall be appointed during general assembly meetings, as certified by the minutes of these meetings signed by those present.

C. The delegates agree to represent the aspirations of their organizations at the NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, within the spirit of this summons, and to advise their organizations of all that is approved during the said CONVENTION.

D. The delegates may register before any of the undersigned organizations.

2. Only civilians, politicians, or intellectuals whose participation is approved by the Organizing Commission will serve as guests and observers.

3. All convention delegates will have the right to speak and vote.

4. Guests will be allowed to speak but will not be allowed to vote. Observers will not be permitted to speak or vote.

5. Convention delegates hereby pledge to participate with respect and show tolerance for different views and will observe the procedures agreed upon for conducting the Convention.

6. Each organization will be responsible for food and transportation expenses of its delegates.

II. Concerning the Commissions

1. The undersigned hereby establish the National Organizing Commission and call for the creation of State Organizing Commissions. These commissions will be formed by representatives of citizens groups, as well as civic, social, and political organizations who express an interest in joining in. The state- level commissions will be tasked with organizing, with the support of the National

Organizing Commission, STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTIONS in preparation for the NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

The National Organizing Commission will create subcommissions to better carry out tasks and to prepare working guidelines.

III. Concerning Methods of Discussion and Resolution

1. Resolutions at the Convention will be approved by vote.
2. The National Organizing Commission will present before the National Democratic Convention a discussion guideline proposal.

IV. Unexpected Aspects

1. All unanticipated aspects in the organization of the Convention will be settled by the National Organizing Commission.
2. All unanticipated aspects in the current summons will be settled by the National Democratic Convention.

AGENDA AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Path to democracy. Inviability [inviabilidad] of the state party.
2. Peaceful avenues for moving toward democracy. Elections, civic resistance, and defense of the people's will.
3. Formulation of a national project that responds to the needs and interests of the Mexican people, placing special importance on 11 points: housing, land, jobs, food, health, education, independence, justice, liberty, democracy, and peace, as well as other demands arising from society.
4. Characteristics and guidelines for the transition government to democracy.
5. Project for holding a new Constituent Congress.

[Signed] Respectfully, Subcommander Marcos; National Organizing Commission of the National Democratic Convention; Caravan of Caravans, Chiapas State Democratic Convention, Zapatist National Liberation Army

[Dated] Mexico, 9 July 1994

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ALSO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS

Arenal Daybreak; Queretaro Commission for Chiapas; Regional Queretaro, Hidalgo, Guanajuato Assembly; Assembly of Youths for Democracy; Assembly of Neighborhoods, CEU [expansion unknown] Zaragoza, CEU-Chemistry; CEU-Political Science; CEU-Architecture; CEU-Philosophy and Letters; CEN-COS [expansion unknown]; Nuevo Leon Support Committee for the Chiapas People; Mexican Network of Action Against Free Trade; Humanist Movement; 19 September Award To Social Solidarity; Organized Citizens and Workers Autonomous Committee; CCH [expansion unknown] Vallejo Preconvention Committee; Kikapao Indian Group; Senlend Indian Group; Rorumuri Indian Group; Ricardo Pozas University Caravan; South Regional Coordinating Board; Women's Union of Ixtlahuaca; Liberal Movement for Democracy; Network of Youths for Democracy; Civic Space for Peace; Rosario Castellanos Women's Group; Democratic Insurgency; X Section of the SNTE [expansion unknown]; 1 May '84 Committee; Tucubu Popular High School; Union of Settlers, Tenants, and House Seekers of Veracruz; Socialist Alternative; National Democratic Alliance; Popular Front for the Right to Food; Popular Civic Coalition; Daily Assault; Women For the National Democratic Convention; Union of Popular Settlements; Artists in Dire Need; CONACIN [expansion unknown]; Emiliano Zapata Revolutionary Popular Union; Urban Profile Organization; San Andres and Churubusco-Coyoacan Park Committee; Front of Metropolitan Zone Youth Organizations; Union of People's Popular Settlements; Nayarit Promotional Committee; Nayarit Union Alternative; Social Movement Unity Promotional Association; Academicians and Intellectuals Caravan; CCH-East Social-Historical Academy; Sergio Mendez Arce Morelos State Academy; Movement of Peoples and Neighborhoods From the South; Popular Union of Businessmen; National Political Committee of the Revolutionary Workers Party; Cuahutemoc Group of Mexicanhood; Movement of Christians Committee for Popular Struggles; International Fourth PRT [expansion unknown]; People's Front; Socialist and Worker Union; Social Work Student Committee; Youth Convergence for Democracy; National Organization of Blind Mexicans; Guerrero State University Student Federation; Promotional Committee of Jalisco State Democratic Assembly; Michoacan Popular Assembly Committee; Veracruz State Assembly Committee; Guerrero State Assembly Committee; and the CEOIC (State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations)

Governor Guarantees Security

PA1507184194 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 12 Jul 94 pp 1, 20

[Report by David Aponte and Candelaria Rodriguez]

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, 11 Jul—The government of Chiapas will offer all necessary guarantees and security, as well as all the "necessary support" to the National Democratic Convention (CND) called by the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN), Governor Javier Lopez Moreno said today.

"We are also easing tension in the state," he added. Lopez said that state authorities called off evictions scheduled for today in the municipalities of Las Margaritas and Bochil, because organizations affiliated with the State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations (CEOIC) have voluntarily evacuated seven estates.

During a brief interview, the governor commented on the CND called by the EZLN for 6-9 August in Chiapas, on the motorcade of all motorcades, on the Chiapas State Democratic Convention, and on CEOIC.

[LA JORNADA] What is your position?

[Lopez] The state government will respect absolutely individual and social guarantees of expression and association and will offer guarantees and even the necessary support to

allow Chiapas society to speak out, to voice its opinion properly without restrictions.

[LA JORNADA] Will your government make any proposals?

[Lopez] No, we will actually wait for their proposal. I think that some specific requests were made his morning (he gave no details).

"The general instruction is to welcome their proposal to ensure not only that there are no obstacles, but that there be security and guarantees to ensure that the event will go smoothly."

As for the National Indian and Peasant Forum, called by CEOIC and held 9-10 July in Ocosingo to draft a "civilian insurgency" program to defend people's will as expressed in the 21 August elections, Lopez said that fraud "can be ruled out in advance."

Moreover, the government has tried to ease tension in the state, including agreements with Indian and peasant organizations to promote voluntary evacuation of estates, he added.

In this regard, Lopez said that the state Attorney General's Office suspended forced evictions in the municipalities of Bochil and Las Margaritas.

Saul Prado-Guerrero, the agricultural affairs coordinator, and Antonio Hernandez, leader of the Independent Central Organization of Agricultural Workers and Peasants (CIOAC), signed an agreement on the voluntary evacuation at San Mateo Estate, in Las Margaritas, in southeast Chiapas, according to the Chiapas Government.

"Various public institutions will offer their support through production programs to those who respond positively to the government call for leaving the states voluntarily," Lopez said.

He added that several peasant organizations will evacuate La Mar Estate, which occupies seven hectares; La Mar-El Rodeo Estate, 46 hectares; Santa Rosa and El Limon Estates, 28 hectares; Monte Verde Estate, 44 hectares, and El Porvenir Estates, 30 hectares, all in Bochil Municipality, in northern Tuxtla Gutierrez.

"The owners are occupying their estates again. Thus, evictions scheduled for today are no longer necessary. They will not be carried out. There is hope that these agricultural problems will continue to be settled through peaceful means," Lopez added.

Lopez said that the Chiapas Government hopes that voluntary evacuations will continue in the next 48 hours "so that we will not have to resort to using force."

Peasant, Indian Organizations Conclude Forum

PA1507234294 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 11 Jul 94 pp 1, 18

[Report by correspondents David Aponte and Elio Henriquez]

[Text] Ocosingo, Chiapas, 10 Jul—The National Indian and Peasant Forum convened by the State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations (CEOIC) has agreed that the National Democratic Convention (CND) must draw up a "civil disobedience plan." The plan should be implemented to defend the will of the people as expressed in the 21 August elections in the event of possible electoral fraud or government violence.

In a plenary session, the forum decided to recognize the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) as the "only moral and political force" capable of bringing together all of the country's sectors in their search for a peaceful solution in Chiapas.

The forum also agreed, if evictions continue, to mobilize and organize a national day of land recovery. Along with the 285 groups represented by the CEOIC, other national groups attended the forum, including the National Peasant Confederation, the National Coordinating Board for the Ayala Plan, the CIOAC [Independent Federation of Agricultural Workers and Peasants], the National Coordinating Board of Indian Peoples, and the Peasant Torch [Antorcha Campesina] organization.

The representatives from the state and national organizations that gathered in this municipal capital concluded their work today. The forum was divided into three working groups under the headings: Transitional Government, National Democratic Convention, and New Constitution; Peace in Chiapas; and CEOIC Action Plan.

The working groups presented their conclusions at the National Company for Basic Commodities warehouses in Ocosingo, where the working sessions took place. The resolutions were approved with several amendments.

Regarding the issue of the National Convention, the forum decided that the civilian population should once again take up the EZLN's call for democratic change. This change should come about by way of a sweeping agreement to defeat the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and to install a popular, pluralist, and democratic transitional government.

The forum concluded that the new government's economic, political, and social programs must include the restoration of rights—such as housing, land, health, education, work, nutrition, independence, freedom, justice, democracy, and the defense of the people's will—while under pressure from civil disobedience.

The CND will have to move toward forming a representative and just transitional government with the participation of all of Mexico's political and social forces. It must have a program that reflects their hope for justice, democracy, and freedom.

That government must be led by the civilian community to prevent one man or one party from controlling power.

The forum stated that it is impossible to continue under the PRI dictatorship. However, we cannot remove one party to replace it with a similar one.

In addressing peaceful means for the transition to democracy, the forum decided it is necessary for President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to resign.

"In light of the possibility of government violence and electoral fraud, there must be a civil disobedience plan based on mobilization among the civilian population, which would in turn follow a CND program."

Nationwide mobilization planned for after 21 August will have to first be coordinated within the framework of the CND, which will be held in Chiapas 6-9 August, the statement added.

One of the decisions that arose from the Peace in Chiapas Working Group stated the need for the government to recognize the EZLN as a militant force.

"The forum and the CEOIC recognize the EZLN as the only moral and political force capable of bringing together all of the country's sectors in the search for a peaceful solution to the current conflict."

The group indicated that there must be improvement in the development plans for Indian communities, which must focus on equality, justice, and freedom, before there can be true peace. This includes the recovery of and distribution of land to peasants.

Regarding discussions on the CEOIC action plan, the group expressed the need to improve the council's organization. There is a need to call on Indians and peasants who are not yet part of the organization to join forces and seek unity with other social forces by way of a media campaign.

The group also scheduled a meeting for 15 July in which it will seek to create a commission to work with the CND National Organization Committee and promote relations with other social organizations.

In terms of agrarian problems, it stated: "In the event that land evictions occur, we will immediately call on all state and national forces to mobilize," and we will urge all popular, civic, and social organizations to draw up public statements against the evictions.

The conclusions of the working groups were unanimously approved, as well as the summons for holding the CND and its inclusion as part of the meeting's main topics.

In the Saturday session, the organizations indicated that CEOIC should participate in planning the CND, which has been called by the EZLN and which will be part of a historic struggle for the wellbeing of Indians and peasants.

The forum concluded today with the participation of approximately 1,000 Indians and peasants who shouted slogans in support of the EZLN and Zapata: "The struggle continues and continues; Zapata lives and lives."

Commissioner, Congressmen Review Chiapas Conflict

PA1707012194 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 13 Jul 94 p 17

[Report by Jesus Aranda]

[Text] Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, has recognized the "precarious peace" that currently exists in that state. He stressed the need to "reduce tension" and prevent "rising" conflicts, such as land seizures, evictions, and the release of prisoners, as indispensable conditions in establishing contact with the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN).

During his first meeting with the members of the Congress of the Union's Multipartisan Commission on the Chiapas Conflict, Madrazo Cuellar said he has been "debating" whether he should attend the National Democratic Convention called by the EZLN for 6 August "as a participant or an observer." He noted, however, that his main concern is establishing contact with EZLN leaders in order to lay the foundation for a just and durable peace.

The commissioner's final decision will depend on the EZLN's reply to a recent invitation to resume negotiations. Alejandro Encinas and Jesus Martin del Campo, deputies of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), said after meeting with Madrazo Cuellar that those who participated in the meeting reiterated their position in favor of a political and negotiated solution to the conflict in the Chiapas highlands.

Encinas and del Campo added: "Madrazo Cuellar also said he is opposed to a violent or military solution." Within this context, they said Madrazo Cuellar asked Chiapas Governor Javier Lopez Moreno to demand that the Army stop the evictions to open the way for a dialogue, and, in turn, a negotiated solution will be reached.

According to Encinas and del Campo, Madrazo Cuellar focused his conversation on the need to reduce tension in Chiapas as the only way to prevent the situation from "deteriorating" and to increase the chances for a real understanding with the EZLN. Otherwise, the necessary conditions will not exist, he told the 10 congressmen who were present.

Madrazo Cuellar also said that the problem of evictions for religious reasons will not be resolved soon, but he stressed the need to establish mechanisms to stop violence in San Juan Chamula.

In terms of problems Madrazo Cuellar has had with cattle ranchers and "authentic coletos" [natives] of San Cristobal, he made it clear that "this is not a time to intensify differences but, rather, to seek formulas to resolve the rising problems in the state."

Among the main topics of conversation, he stressed that "reducing tension" is the only means of guaranteeing the resumption of contacts with the EZLN. He admitted that he has had differences with some ranchers and "authentic coletos" of San Cristobal, adding that differences of opinion still exist. He stressed, however, that this is not the time to heighten these differences but, rather, to seek ways to end the heightened conflicts in Chiapas.

Meanwhile, Victor Manuel Tinoco Rubi, president of the Multipartisan Commission, said Madrazo Cuellar will try to create the basis for peace in Chiapas State before 21 August.

Tinoco Rubi also dismissed the convention called by the EZLN, and he criticized the fact that the rebels have changed their demands. First, they were against the Army and demanded the president's resignation; then they talked about the rights of the indigenous peoples and their reincorporation into national life; and now they are making electoral demands, he added. In his opinion, some of the EZLN demands lack seriousness.

PRD congressmen, however, said the rebels have all the right to call a convention, and they expressed their interest in participating in the meeting as observers.

The three legislators agreed that Peace Commissioner Madrazo Cuellar wants to establish good channels of communication with the Multipartisan Commission, and they welcomed this.

EZLN Communique Welcomes New Peace Commissioner

PA1607040694 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 14 Jul 94 p 6

[Communique issued by the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the EZLN from the mountains of southeastern Mexico on 8 July]

[Text] 8 July 1994

To the people of Mexico:

To the peoples and governments of the world:

Brothers:

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command [CCRI-CG] of the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] has carefully reviewed the letter, dated 1 July 1994, addressed to this EZLN Command by Mr. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, the new commissioner for peace and reconciliation. In this regard, the CCRI-CG of the EZLN declares:

1. It welcomes the appointment of Mr. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar as the new commissioner for peace and reconciliation and recognizes him as the Federal Government's official representative.

2. It asks Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia, bishop of the Diocese of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, to join the National Mediation Commission, along with other distinguished personalities.

3. While other distinguished personalities will participate in the National Mediation Commission, all communications from the Federal Government and peace commissioner to the CCRI-CG of the EZLN must come through Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia, if he agrees to join the Mediation Commission.

4. The conclusion of the dialogue in San Cristobal is not the end of the EZLN's desire to maintain a dialogue.

5. The CCRI-CG of the EZLN urges Peace Commissioner Jorge Madrazo Cuellar to undertake honest efforts in creating favorable conditions for peaceful state and federal elections and for resuming the peace dialogue with justice, dignity, and democracy.

Democracy! Liberty! Justice!

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico

[Signed] CCRI-CG of the EZLN

[Dated] Mexico, July 1994

Firm Bids To Buy 49 Percent of Cuban Phone System

PA1707212394 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 12 Jul 94 p 14

[Report by Herminio Rebollo Pinal]

[Text] Although many do not believe it, Javier Garza Calderon, known in his native Monterrey as "El Manitas" [Little Hands], has already made a down payment in his bid to buy 49 percent of Cuba's telephone company.

In short, although there is still a good chance that he will "come out of the deal with flying colors," Garza Calderon could lose face if the deal falls through, not to mention that it would cost him dearly—no less than $70 million.

So far, he only has photographs, letters of intent, hugs, and, simply put, good wishes and speeches to show from the ceremony in which President Carlos Salinas and Commander Fidel Castro took part on 13 June. Nevertheless, the deadline for Garza Calderon's Domos International to make a down payment to enter the deal expired exactly one week ago.

It is worth noting that following endless bargaining, the Iusa Group owned by Alejo and Carlos Peralta never reached this point. When the time came to deposit a $70 million down payment on 6 January, the Iusa Group claimed it had reconsidered and decided to back out of the transaction. The deal remained at an impasse for six months, which—we must add—seemed an eternity to the Cubans who remained mired in a severe crisis.

To better understand what happened last week, we must explain that Domos was able to pay the $70 million down payment only because the National Foreign Trade Bank [BANCOMEXT], owned by Enrique Villatela, "backed" Domos with $60 million. In other words, while Garza Calderon is spending $10 million, BANCOMEXT will be loaning $60 million to a Cuban institution. In this deal, Domos is acting as a guarantor for the loan. If for any reason the deal falls through, Domos would lose the $70 million down payment, which would represent "a great loss," despite the size of Garza Calderon's fortune. So far, Domos has provided enough guarantees to convince both BANCOMEXT and the Cubans that he is serious.

To those who thought there had been disagreements between Javier and his father, Javier Garza Sepulveda—known as "El Manotas" [Big Hands]—it should suffice to say that Garza Sepulveda attended the 13 June ceremony.

Garza Sepulveda is providing the capital to back the very significant venture his son is entering.

In two weeks, BANCOMEXT will deposit its $60 million, and it is estimated that the entire transaction for the swap [previous word in English] will conclude in September when Domos will pay the remaining $630 million.

Meanwhile, Domos continues to look for a technical operations partner. We are referring to a European telecommunications group that is willing to work with "El Manitas" to virtually revamp the entire Cuban telephone system, which has remained unchanged since the 1960's.

Future negotiations are expected to be long and difficult, mishaps aside. Despite all of this, it must be conceded that "santito" [little saint] Garza Calderon is still working wonders. The first step, which the Peralta family was never able to take, has already been taken by the Garza Calderon family.

Foreign Secretariat Promoting Salinas' Bid To Head WTO

PA1707004994 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 13 Jul 94 p 21

[Report by Guadalupe Hernandez E.]

[Text] For the second time in a week, Party of the Democratic Revolution President Porfirio Munoz Ledo yesterday sent "a message" to President Salinas, asking him to decline or postpone his nomination to chair the World Trade Organization [WTO] "while he remains head of the executive."

Meanwhile, Foreign Relations Secretary Manuel Tello admitted the Foreign Relations Secretariat is "promoting" the candidacy of Mexico at "an international level." He noted, "This is the way things have been done in the past, and this is how things will be done in the future."

The foreign relations secretary appeared before the Senate on Tuesday, when debate was opened on the Group of Three (G-3) free trade agreement and the final document of GATT's Uruguay Round of talks, which was approved in Marrakech.

According to Tello, after NAFTA went into effect, commercial trade has increased considerably, and he added that together with the trilateral trade pact, parallel agreements also were drafted for environmental protection and labor rules.

During Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien's visit last March, both countries reinforced their bilateral political dialogue, and a meeting was held between five ministers from each nation to discuss issues that included political, agricultural, environmental, trade, and transportation matters.

The foreign relations secretary asserted that NAFTA "represents a significant advancement in trilateral relations, and it is also a practical example of what can be accomplished when there is a will to reach agreements between countries with different levels of development."

Those who thought Mexico would turn its back on Latin America with NAFTA were dead wrong, the foreign secretary continued, because our relations with Latin American countries have been "considerably strengthened and expanded throughout the current administration."

During the question and answer period, Porfirio Munoz Ledo reiterated before the foreign secretary his request that President Salinas "make it clear that he will decline or at least postpone his nomination to chair the WTO while serving as chief executive."

Russian Mission Tasked With Orbiting University Satellite

PA1507154194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1712 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Jul (NOTIMEX)—A Russian mission will be tasked with putting the satellite UNAM SAT I into orbit in the near future. This satellite is the first to be designed and constructed by the National Autonomous University of Mexico [UNAM] and is part of a specialized program of technological study at the university.

The UNAM SAT I is a miniaturized high tech satellite that was assembled by the University Space Research and Development Program (PUIDE). Faculty sources have explained the satellite will be launched as a secondary payload on board a larger satellite.

David Liberman, PUIDE director, has said a group of specialists took five years to design the apparatus, working in a field never before explored.

The satellite consists of 600,000 active transistors, 12 passive components, and 2,800 mechanical parts, 90 percent of which the university manufactured.

The objective of the UNAM SAT I mission will be to analyze meteorites, calculate their relative speed, generate statistics in time and space, and relay information about Mexico's volcanic activity in 12 and 24-hour intervals.

Liberman has said the importance of the project does not lie in the satellite itself but in forging a generation of space engineers in Mexico, each with their own field of specialty and who have begun to work as a multidisciplinary team.

Highlighting the agenda of the project, the researcher has said the university has offered the first courses on space. This specific project was approved in 1990, and the participants began purchasing, constructing, and studying the component parts of the satellite eight months later.

Following several alternatives for launching the instrument, the university's Institute of Astronomy sought the aid of specialists from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Russian participation for that phase of the project.

The orbit for UNAM SAT I will be 700 km above median sea level, at a 72-degree angle with respect to the equator.

Once in orbit and completely separated from the Russian booster, the satellite's telemetry transmitters will work for three months, via a ground-based radio control station.

President Distributes Procampo Subsidies

PA1507175394 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 11 Jul 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ruben Vazquez Perez]

[Text] Tecamac, Mexico, 10 Jul—President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said here today that the changes to Article 27 of the Constitution and the agricultural policy were adopted so that the government will stop standing on the farmers' shoulders, and so that in partnership with the farmers, the government will be responsible for the better development of Mexican agriculture. This was all accomplished because the "vast majority" of the farmers requested this change, Salinas de Gortari stressed.

While handing out cash subsidies totalling over 180 million new pesos to 189,000 farmers from Mexico State, corresponding to Procampo's [Program of Direct Support to the Countryside] spring-summer cycle, the president dispelled doubts concerning the continuation of the Procampo program and told farmers the program would continue for at least 15 more years.

The new conditions for farm productivity promoted during the current administration—whose term is coming to an end—will allow us to leave paternalism and bureaucracy behind from now on, Salinas de Gortari said.

Speaking to approximately 15,000 people from the 121 municipalities of Mexico State, the chief executive, who was constantly being cheered, said: "Yes, we have changed, but not in order to abandon Mexican farmers. With this new policy, the government no longer will be a weight on the farmer's back, but will be jointly responsible with you in better developing our fields."

Accompanied by State Governor Emilio Chuayffet Chemor, leaders of the leading peasant organizations, and Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Minister Carlos Hank Gonzalez, President Salinas de Gortari said the changes in Article 27 of the Constitution were enacted because the "vast majority of farmers" demanded them. He recalled that when the agrarian law was changed, orders were given to the Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Secretariats "not to continue waiting for you to come to their offices" but to go out into rural areas "to get their boots dirty and participate in the farmers' struggles."

Salinas de Gortari emphasized that with the changes the government was responding to the farmers' determination to face the competition resulting from the signing of NAFTA.

Recalling the negotiations with the United States and Canada on agriculture the president said hundreds of thousands of farmers were consulted with in order to reach a decision on this "most important" issue.

The chief executive said that at that time the farmers asked for conditions similar to those of U.S. and Canadian farmers. For that reason the government decided to lower the price of diesel and tractors, and the coverage and insurance conditions for farmers were improved.

"And what was more important, as you explained to me: If U.S. and Canadian farmers have the benefit of direct cash subsidies, Mexico should make the possibility of such a program a reality," Salinas de Gortari added.

After giving 10 checks to an equal number of farmers—symbolically keeping the promise of giving cash subsidies to Mexican farmers—Salinas de Gortari stressed that this money was valid not only because it came from the Federation's Treasury, but, above all, "because of the work, dedication, and courage of the Mexican farmers."

Regarding the concern expressed by some farmers that with the end of this administration's term the Procampo subsidies would also end, the president reminded them that the subsidies would be given at least for 15 more years, which is the time frame established for the program which coincides with the period of NAFTA's initial implementation.

"That is the reason for our commitment to not abandoning you. You will continue to have the firm support of your friend, the president of the republic," Salinas de Gortari promised.

Previously, Salinas de Gortari had listened to specific problems expressed by some local farmers who asked for completion of certain works and pardoning of their debts with the power company. Referring to these two issues, Salinas de Gortari said he had discussed them with "my friend" Governor Chuayffet who, he said, would give "the farmers in Mexico State more support."

He also told them that if they organized and volunteered their manual labor, the state and federal governments would give them more than 100,000 trees to reforest the Tecamac ecological zone. After noting that thousands of youngsters were attending this event, he promised to build them a sports center on the site.

"Governor," he said to Chuayffet, "if this takes less than four months, I promise to return to Tecamac to inaugurate the sports center!" Everyone present chanted the president's name and applauded.

The president said Procampo's direct subsidies will reduce migration from rural areas to the big cities or to other nations "because now people will have better incomes and greater benefits. That is the significance of this reform: a better future for Mexican farmers."

The checks handed out today by the president are a part of Procampo's subsidies that will benefit 3.3 million farmers throughout the nation during the spring and summer cycle to create conditions whereby the farmers may better face the challenge of the trade opening.

Speaking for the farmers, Hugo Andres Araujo, leader of the National Peasant Confederation, stressed that by handing out these checks the demand made for so many years has been answered.

Araujo said the farmers receive these subsidies convinced that they represent a new hope for better production and living conditions. Lastly, he proposed to the president that at the end of this agricultural cycle, the results of Procampo be evaluated in order to find new mechanisms to make it a permanent instrument for building up capital in the rural areas.

In turn Governor Chuayffet emphasized that "Carlos Salinas de Gortari has proven that the government is possible only if it is conducted with the moral authority that comes from a permanent willingness to keep one's given word."

He also said that with actions like Procampo's and the companies of the National Solidarity Program, the refinancing of overdue loans, and mechanization, the "second Mexican agrarian revolution" has begun.

By keeping faith with the people, he said, "he increases our confidence and becomes not only the Mexican head of state, but the leader of a nation that is taking firm strides in search of—as he himself has said—its new grandeur."

The Mexico State governor emphasized that with the Procampo subsidies for the spring and summer cycle "the agricultural sector is being modernized through action; the deep roots of rural Mexico—that were withering away—are being rescued through action."

Chuayffet said that out of a total of 3.3 million Procampo beneficiaries in this cycle, 189,000 were registered in Mexico State, which received a total of 180 million new pesos to raise crops on 519,000 hectares of land.

"We are the state with the highest number of production units registered—375,000 sites," emphasized the Mexican governor, who immediately pointed out that 1,635 overseers will supervise the correct use of the funds.

Chuayffet stressed that 1,500 hectares that were previously used to grow corn were going to be used to plant trees, and another 6,000 hectares in the southern part of Mexico State, also used to grow corn, will be set aside as permanent prairies to supply cattlemen with fodder and to help increase competition in the chains of production.

The governor ended by telling Salinas de Gortari: "You have given actions their true dimension as the only language that can generate public confidence and a unified effort by all to reach for the future."

Commerce Secretary Cited on Economic Growth

PA1507225594 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 11 Jul 94 p 34

[Report by Gustavo Lomelin; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Oaxaca—Jaime Serra Puche, head of the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat (SECOFI), has forecast real economic growth of 2 percent this year. The commerce secretary also recommended the need to consolidate the economic program to encourage more employment and to improve income distribution in the nation in an effort to link economic stability with social development.

Nevertheless, the trade official acknowledged that microeconomic reconversion is being blocked because of high real interest rates.

Interviewed by EL FINANCIERO, Serra Puche stated that, during the current administration, an integral industrial policy that coincides with the commercial opening process has been encouraged. However—he explained—it is not the same as it was in the past, when it was based on subsidies and the transference of resources.

"For those who question the industrial program and seek a return to the past, the fundamental questions are this: What criteria were used to specify support for various sectors or regions? Why encourage one segment of the economy and not another? On the other hand, in good measure, the market now determines development," he stressed.

Serra Puche pointed out: "A protected economy is equivalent to an economy of privileges." He also stressed that the difficulties confronted by some corporations or sectors "are not problems caused by the industrial program," because there have been corporations in the same sector which have been able to increase production while others have been forced to cut back.

Moreover, Serra Puche said the number of corporations has risen by 3 percent, despite the number of corporations that have shut down because of declining production or because they have been unable to compete.

The SECOFI official noted that previously the industrial sector focused on profit margins and low production volume, while, now, increasing competition brought about by economic opening has prompted corporations to slash profits and raise production levels.

"Nevertheless—he admitted—there is no doubt that this transition is very painful, and it is becoming more difficult as a result of high interest rates prevailing in the market."

In the face of complaints by the Business Coordinating Council (CCE) on the need for more in-depth economic deregulation, Serra Puche insisted that at the federal level "significant deregulation has taken place, but there is still the need to expedite it at the state level."

In general, Serra Puche announced that SECOFI has focused on 10 organizations to improve industrial productivity: the National Metrology Center, the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property, National Electrical Sector Normalization and Certification Association, Certified Mexican Quality, Trusteeship for the Development of

Mexican Industry, Mexican Normalization and Certification Institute, Mexican Normalization and Certification Society, Technology Transference Unit, National Quality Award, and the Mexican Foundation for Technological Innovation and Transference in Small and Medium-Sized Corporations.

Guaranteed 2 Percent GDP Growth

The SECOFI secretary reiterated that GDP is expected to grow by 2 percent in real terms this year as result of the 22-percent increase in exports, its multiplying effect on suppliers, the 43-percent increase in foreign investments, and the dynamics observed in industrial activity.

He indicated that during April, industrial activity nationwide rose 6.5 percent from March. In addition, according to his estimates, vigorous activity will occur in the fourth quarter, which, when projected over the next 12 months, will allow a growth rate of at least 4.5 percent.

EL FINANCIERO asked Serra Puche: How can you talk about overall export activity, especially if 80 percent of exports are produced by 252 corporations exporting 25 generic goods?

He answered: Well, these figures are from two years ago. Since then, there has been growth in exports of manufactured goods, and these have caused a multiplying effect in suppliers who have now become indirect exporters.

Serra Puche also explained that no customs duties will be lifted without the support of the industrial and agricultural sectors. He pointed out: "We are not obliged to accelerate economic opening because the NAFTA negotiations are closed. Nevertheless, it is possible to negotiate economic opening in certain areas that will not have a negative effect on us."

He was interviewed within the framework of his fist business tour to Oaxaca as commerce secretary to inaugurating several industrial and commercial development projects promoted by Oaxaca Governor Diodoro Carrasco Altamirano.

Economic Boost to Oaxaca

Accompanied by the Oaxaca governor, Serra Puche inaugurated the Libra Group's "Oaxaca 2000" project, which he called "NAFTA's first effect on the state," where the elimination of quotas will allow larger amounts of exports to the United States.

The first of 10 factories owned by the Libra Group to make clothes to export to the United States opened. The project required an initial minimum investment of $5 million. It will create 1,200 direct jobs and 4,000 indirect jobs, and it will generate 6.5 million new pesos worth of income tax revenues and $20 million worth of exports annually.

Ricardo Marcos Touche, president of the Libra Group, whose estimated exports will amount to $40 million this year alone, said he chose Oaxaca because of its cheap labor, its social stability, and the economic boost promoted by its new governor.

Finally, Serra Puche and Carrasco headed a meeting with mescal industrialists in Mitla, where a complete modernization project was announced and where the commerce secretary pledged to step up efforts to determine the origins of mescal within the Oaxaca State to preserve the product, to register it internationally, and to make it known worldwide through partnerships and a strong ad campaign.

Roundup of Electoral Developments

PA1507184094

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on developments related to the Mexican elections scheduled for 21 August.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has told all state governors that the neutrality of public servants will be the norm of his administration and warned that both state governors and municipal authorities will be held jointly responsible for guaranteeing that elections be impartial and open. He has repeatedly told governors at recent meetings that "during elections authorities have a greater responsibility to be impartial and a duty to be neutral." (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Jul 94 pp 1, 6)

Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) presidential candidate Ernesto Zedillo has submitted his regional planning proposal for Puebla State. Zedillo promised a big boost to the state's infrastructure and said that the state has serious discrepancies between development and poverty. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, presidential candidate for Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) began touring Campeche on Thursday. He stressed the need to renegotiate overdue loans and provide farmers more and cheaper credit, adding: "This requires unity: unity of the people with the authorities and with those who have the opportunity to generate investments and bring new activities to all this area." Pablo Emilio Madero, presidential candidate for the National Opposition Union (UNO), visited Chetumal, Quintana Roo State, for the second time in less than six months. He says that violence is the last thing needed in the 21 August elections, for "we all know where violence starts but not where it ends." (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 8 Jul 94)

Marcela Lombardo Otero, presidential candidate for the Popular Socialist Party, ruled out in Veracruz on 8 July that the Chiapas conflict is due to the Indian community's poverty. She believes that the Chiapas conflict is political. She said that Mexico's enemies have been pressuring the Mexican people to surrender to the interests of Yankee imperialism and are trying to snatch away the Mexican people's legacy. She believes this has weakened the country. (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jul 94)

Pablo Emilio Madero visited the Mayan Indian area in the middle of Quintana Roo State on Friday. He said he wanted to hear their problems and added "there is unfairness and corruption. We need to make a complete change, and to make a change we must begin with a political change, which we believe is urgently needed." Mexican

Green Ecologist Party (PVEM) presidential candidate Jorge Gonzalez Torres ended a campaign tour of Jalisco State. He promised that if he becomes president he will cancel NAFTA. He said he will request an audit of all parties to learn the true costs of presidential campaigns and see if the limits are being adhered to. (Mexican City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 9 Jul 94)

The Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) announced on 10 July that the Mexican voting roster is 97.62 percent reliable, according to an audit by eight of the nine political parties that will take part in the 21 August elections. IFE reported that their findings were similar to what the private auditing firm McKinsey had found—96.1 percent. Results were approved by seven votes in favor, one abstention by the Mexican Democratic Party, and one vote against by the PRD, that refused to take part. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2237 GMT 10 Jul 94)

On 10 July, PRI candidate Ernesto Zedillo visited Ciudad Obregon, Sonora State, where he denied that Mexico is adrift or that it has a problem of governability. He said: "Institutions are in charge, and people know that exceptional circumstances have burdened and affected us a lot these past few months." Zedillo visited Navojoa where he met with peasants at a place called Arboldeda de Rio Mayo. There he delivered a long speech, extolling and honoring the memory of his friend Luis Donald Colosio, who was from Sonora. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 11 Jul 94 p 6)

PRI President Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza announced that the party will create a commission of experts to investigate the results of the investigation into Luis Donaldo Colosio's murder. Pichardo Pagaza added that if needed, foreign specialists would be hired. In Guerrero State, Labor Party candidate Cecilia Soto expressed her disagreement with the "hurried" finding of Prosecutor Miguel Montes, who is investigating Colosio's murder. Soto met in Acapulco with party followers. PVEM presidential candidate Jorge Gonzalez also criticized the report on Colosio's murder and said that neither he nor his party believes that Mario Aburto Martinez is the only person responsible for Colosio's murder. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 14 Jul 94)

El Salvador

ARENA, PDC Back Troops to Haiti; FMLN Opposed

PA1607045094 San Salvador Canal Doce Television Network in Spanish 0319 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Report by William Melendez from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and Christian Democratic Party [PDC] deputies supported the government today on the possibility of sending troops to Haiti at the request of the United States as part of a multinational peacekeeping force after the imminent military invasion. The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] faction, however, disagreed with El Salvador's future participation in the peace mission and also rejected an invasion as a means of forcing the Haitian coupist officers to relinquish power.

Upcoming legislative debates will apparently include the possibility of sending Salvadoran troops to Haiti following the imminent U.S. military invasion. This Friday the PDC and ARENA factions supported the initiative while at the same time rejecting the invasion and the possibility of sending military troops to that country.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Reporter] Does this mean El Salvador will support a military intervention?

[First unidentified deputy] No, not at all. El Salvador would not endorse a military intervention. We would participate in the democratization process.

[Second unidentified deputy] I don't think it would be wrong if we were to help maintain order and bring social harmony to a nation. It would be wrong, however, for our forces to help attack the people. [end recording]

It was reported in Washington on Thursday that at least 12 countries, including El Salvador, had offered to send forces to Haiti but only to supervise or promote stability in that nation following an invasion.

The FMLN parliamentary faction disagreed with the measure and has expressed its own opinion on the issue.

[Begin unidentified FMLN deputy recording] The practical, logical, political, and ethical thing to do is to condemn the military intervention. Before thinking of forming part of a multilateral peacekeeping force, we should try to avoid the intervention and do everything possible to find other mechanisms that will not lead to such a result. [end recording]

The legislative assembly plenary session will have to debate this decision if war is declared. In any case, El Salvador is a signatory of the UN Charter, thus the decision would only require the approval of the executive branch if this international organization asks for our cooperation.

Government Objects to Invasion

PA1607201494 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 16 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] Yesterday, the Salvadoran Government headed by Dr. Armando Calderon Sol objected to a military invasion of Haiti due to the crisis of power in that country. He said, however, he is willing to support an international peace delegation.

Presidency Communications Secretary Francisco Flores disclosed a communique stating the Salvadoran Government has officially told the United States it is willing to support a peace mission.

It was learned yesterday in Washington, D.C., that El Salvador reportedly would participate in a multinational force consisting of countries such as Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Belize, Panama, and Honduras.

The communique disclosed by the official adds: "The Salvadoran Government would be willing to join the international community in a peace mission to support the Haitian people through mechanisms already discussed and approved by pertinent international forums."

The communique also states the Salvadoran Government has not received any petition for political asylum by Haitian citizens; should it receive one, the petition will be "analyzed" and made public in due time. The communique adds the government has not received any request to grant political asylum to Haitian refugees.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Ministry source said yesterday due to a possible military intervention in Haiti by multinational forces, El Salvador is still evaluating whether to participate in this international effort.

The Foreign Ministry source also said our country could participate in a peace mission for the time being. "This is a possibility, however, that is being analyzed at this time."

Honduras Rejects an Invasion of Haiti

Meanwhile, Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina said yesterday he will not join multinational forces headed by the United States to oust the Haitian military regime.

Reina said: "I will never allow my country to participate in a military intervention in any country in Latin American or the world." He told journalists "Honduras could only cooperate in restoring peace in Haiti, as an effective contribution to democracy, as long as the United Nations requests it and after the military leaders are ousted in that Caribbean nation."

The Honduran head of state said Honduras will "never" participate in an invasion of Haiti.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has insisted a multinational delegation in Haiti could require 16,500 people, including combat troops, to restore democracy and order. He has failed to mention, however, whether this would be an invading force.

The Government's Position on Haiti

1. To join the international community in a peace mission to support the Haitian people.

2. To reject a military invasion.

3. The government has not received any petition for political asylum; should it received one, it would be analyzed and made public in due time.

4. The government has not received any request to accept Haitian refugees, because our country has a small area and a high population density rate and is incurring large expenditures to reconstruct the nation after 10 years of war.

Government To File Case Against U.S. Quota Decree

PA1607172094 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Report by Mario Jovel; from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] Deputy Economy Minister Rene de Leon reported today the government will file a case on 26 July before the textile monitoring organization in Geneva, Switzerland, against the United States' unilateral decree limiting the import of Salvadoran shirts.

The United States wants to limit the quota of apparel imported from El Salvador, a limitation that could negatively affect the level of jobs in the nation. Twenty-six local and foreign textile companies generate jobs in this sector, but these companies are threatened by the limitation the United States wants to impose on El Salvador. The limitation would set a quota of no more than 373,000 dozens of plain-knit shirts. [sentence as heard]

According to the deputy economy minister, the U.S. Government's position is questionable, and no agreement on the extent of the limitation has been reached despite negotiations; therefore, El Salvador will adhere to GATT principles.

[Begin De Leon recording] In order to protect the interests of our local industry, we have decided to file a case before the textile monitoring organization, a multilateral body through which a recommendation is sought regarding the quota. We hope this body will indicate whether the quota should be withdrawn and whether it should be more flexible and conducive toward larger quota levels. [end recording]

The official explained members of the textile monitoring organization will analyze the case on 26 July. The body includes representatives from Brazil, Japan, Korea, and the EEC.

De Leon has said El Salvador can export more than 2 million shirts annually, adding the United States has assigned Honduras a quota of 1 million shirts. De Leon says he believes all the regional countries should be treated equally.

[Begin De Leon recording] El Salvador is not appealing to the [words indistinct] to export an additional dozen shirts; we are appealing because we believe we have multilateral rights that must be respected. We also want to see whether our main trading partner will consider these rights. [end recording]

The deputy minister was a speaker at a seminar called Promote Your Country, organized by [word indistinct]. The benefits provided by the GATT Uruguay Round were explained at the seminar. El Salvador will appeal the U.S. limitation on textile trade based on the principles of clarity and reciprocity and its status as most favored nation.

Guatemala

Mexican Embassy Confirms 4 Injured in Attack

PA1507220294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2043 GMT 15 Jul 94

[By Jose Luis Castillejos]

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Embassy in Guatemala confirmed today that four members of its Legal Office were injured in an armed attack in this capital.

Enrique Romero Cuevas, Mexican Embassy charge d'affaires, said the motive for the attack is not yet known, and he denied that there were fatalities.

The four victims of the attack "were conscious when admitted to the hospital and their condition is delicate," a doctor at the Bella Aurora Hospital, where the injured were transported, told NOTIMEX.

Preliminary reports by the Fire Department stated that one of the victims had died, a report that was later denied by the charge d'affaires of the Mexican Embassy in Guatemala.

Mexican citizens Manuel Benfeit Aguilar, Rebeca Ruiseco Perez, and Miguel Angel de Leon, members of the Legal Office, and Guatemalan chauffeur Otto Ren Cornejo were fired upon by unidentified individuals traveling in a car shortly after noon.

Guatemalan authorities present at the attack site revealed that the unidentified individuals were traveling in a Ford Lancer with tinted glass and fired at a Toyota with diplomatic license plate CD 309 granted to the Mexican Embassy.

The vehicle in which the diplomats were traveling was destroyed by the gunfire and the front seat showed traces of blood.

The attack took place at 1300 local time (1900 GMT) as the Embassy personnel traveled on Reforma Avenue and 14th Street on the boundary between Zones 9 and 10 near the Mexican Consulate in this capital.

Guatemalan National Police identification personnel traveled to the attack site to comb the area and establish the motive for the attack.

Inside the Toyota, authorities found a bag full of dollars which, according to diplomatic officials, had been withdrawn from a bank near the scene of the attack.

URNG Condemns Attack

PA1607023894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2340 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Jul (EFE)—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) condemned today, Friday, in Mexico the attack against four Mexican diplomats in the Guatemalan capital by an unknown armed group.

In a communique, the URNG called the attack a provocation aimed at breaking the negotiating process between both parties. The communique adds that this act demonstrates "the impunity with which human rights violators and the enemies of peace and negotiation act."

According to reports, a group of unidentified individuals today attacked a Mexican Embassy vehicle in Guatemala City, leaving one person dead and three injured, all of whom are in a hospital in this city.

The URNG document states that this attack must be added to the 818 human rights violations perpetrated by security forces, "soldiers, or uncontrolled groups over the last six months."

The guerrilla group rejected the attack against the diplomats, "who represent a friendly country in the negotiation process in Guatemala." It asked the Guatemalan Government to clarify this incident as soon as possible and "to punish those responsible."

The URNG reiterated its view that violations of international law and diplomatic standards must not go unpunished, adding that the attack is a flagrant violation of the Global Human Rights Agreement signed on 29 March at the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat.

The URNG reaffirmed its solidarity with the Mexican Government and called on the United Nations to form as soon as possible the International Verification Mission of the Global Human Rights Agreement as it is the "only way to prevent these savage attacks from happening again in Guatemala."

President Urges Security Forces To Fight Violence

PA1807012394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1833 GMT 17 Jul 94

[By Jose Luis Castillejos]

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 17 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio today reported that clandestine groups are trying to "harm" the democratic process and disrupt the peace talks by unleashing an unprecedented wave of violence.

The president said this violence is aimed at "undermining the democratic process and the peace negotiations, as well as blocking the upcoming 14 August elections to purge the Congress of the Republic."

In a communique, De Leon Carpio called on security forces to redouble their efforts to contain the wave of violence, which, according to the Archdiocese's Human Rights Office (ODHA), has become "critical and dangerous to national development."

The ODHA reported that between January and June, 166 illegal arrests were committed, together with 348 murders, 128 attacks, 101 acts of intimidation, 30 forced disappearances, and 13 cases of torture. Regarding the peace process, the ODHA noted that the advancements made by the government and guerrillas make inevitable the resolution of the 34-year-old armed conflict, but the ODHA regretted the fact that the advancements in the negotiations have not been accompanied by a reduction in violence.

In its Sunday editorial, the domestic newspaper PRENSA LIBRE wrote: "Impunity, violence, and libertinism appear to be advancing steadily throughout the country's social structures."

The editorial added: "It seems that the fear of those who are attacked and the impotence of those enforce the law are the tools required for violence to impose itself and rule in its kingdom."

Meanwhile, the General Command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) stated in a communique that in recent weeks there has been an escalation of terror, which has generated new intimidation, threats, and uncertainty.

The URNG said it was "absurd and paradoxical" that, following the agreements signed by the government at the bargaining table, an escalation of violence should occur.

In a communique signed by URNG Commanders Rolando Moran, Pablo Monsanto, Gaspar Ilom, and Carlos Gonzalez, secretary general of the Guatemalan Labor Party (PGT), the rebel group demanded that the human rights of the Guatemalan population be respected.

The URNG communique explained: "We express, in a categorical and firm manner, our protest before the Government of the Republic for its repeated failure to comply with the Global Agreement on Human Rights signed on 29 March in Mexico City." According to the rebel group, Guatemala is exhibiting conditions that resemble the nation's worst times of repression and impunity.

The URNG stressed: "Guatemalan society is shocked. The recent acts of brutality are generating an atmosphere of terror, while the indispensable and essential peace accord—a peace accord which, as has been stipulated, must be observed immediately—is being mocked, ignored, and violated." The URNG also noted that the delay in establishing a Verifying Commission is aggravating the situation in Guatemala. [passage omitted]

Honduras

Reina Not To Accept Part in Haiti Invasion

PA1507183594 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1637 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Interview with President Carlos Roberto Reina by unidentified reporter; place not given—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Thank you for granting this interview from your car on the meetings, because it is raining.

[Reina] These consultation meetings are aimed at reaching a national convergence. There are many issues.... [pauses] I already said in previous interviews the National Party of Honduras [PNH] is an important party. I have talked with the PNH Central Committee president about the plan we sent to Congress and about the national convergence. We agreed I will send him a copy of the plan to be distributed among PNH members so they can give their opinions; it is as simple as that. We have always maintained discreet ties of friendship to avoid pressure or speculation.

[Reporter] How willing is your former contender to cooperate?

[Reina] He is very willing to cooperate. He has acted civilly since he delivered the speech accepting his defeat in the elections. I am grateful for that attitude.

[Reporter] Have you paid any attention to what has been said today about a proposal made to the former PNH presidential candidate by a high-level political leader? Did you talk about this proposal? What about media rumors of an alleged coup d'etat?

[Reina] He said he will never support such a move or violate the Constitution.

[Reporter] Did he recognize, however, there was such a proposal?

[Reina] No. I casually asked him just as I heard the reports. He told me he had already emphatically denied the reports.

[Reporter] Did you ever worry about these reports before talking to Jose Oswaldo Ramos Soto?

[Reina] I always worry when these types of reports have repercussions. We Hondurans keep talking about violating the Constitution, violations which could be traumatic for Honduras. I am on my way to greeting the march by the Lenca Indians, who are true Hondurans, of whom I am truly fond.

[Reporter] International news agencies have reported alleged Honduran participation in an intervention in Haiti. Although we already talked about how Honduras will participate in resolving the Haitian crisis, will Honduras support a military intervention in that Caribbean nation?

[Reina] I will never accept participation in any invasion of any country in the world. Should the United Nations ask us to cooperate in restoring peace in Haiti and contribute to the return of democracy after this impasse is over, we will do so. I repeat: I will never support any invasion.

[Reporter] Has the United States exerted any pressure on your government?

[Reina] No, no, no. There has been no pressure whatsoever.

[Reporter] Mr. President, to clarify this case of the alleged proposal made to your former contender, was it completely discarded, or will you order an investigation?

[Reina] These reports are completely rejected. We must pay no attention to them so as to avoid confusing the public.

Army Chief Rejects Possibility of Coup

PA1507215294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1952 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 15 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Honduran Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir today discarded the possibility that his institution would head a coup against President Carlos Roberto Reina.

In denying a report by the local daily EL PERIODICO DE HONDURAS that "wealthy politicians" could sponsor a military coup, Discua affirmed: "The Armed Forces would never go for that kind of adventure."

He noted: "I think the Armed Forces is a mature, professional institution that doesn't think about acting that way. I, as commander in chief of the institution, will never lend myself to that kind of action."

Discua expressed his concern over the report and confirmed that the Army has not thought about disrupting constitutional order.

In noting that he respects the people's will as expressed in the polls and the election of President Reina, the officer said: "I am fully identified with the democratic system."

Discua admitted, however, that the current economic and social situation in the country "is critical" and for this reason all Hondurans must work together for solutions to their problems and not think about coups d'etat.

Discua reiterated his "unrestricted respect" for the branches of the state, especially the executive branch, represented by the president of the Republic.

The general said firmly: "This is not the best time for spreading information that produces nothing but distrust and instability in Honduras."

The general said that anyone who encourages this kind of report will be sought and investigated and the law applied.

President Reina and General Discua met this morning to analyze the issue, but no details of the meeting were disclosed.

Nicaragua

Government Opposes Military Intervention in Haiti

PA1607040494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0039 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Managua, 15 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Nicaraguan Government and several Nicaraguan sectors have expressed opposition to any foreign military intervention to overthrow the coupist military group and restore democracy in Haiti.

Via a spokesman, Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais yesterday said: "Democracy must return exclusively within the framework of the United Nations."

"We do not believe," said the official, dismissing any support for armed intervention in the Caribbean country, "that unilateral actions are suitable. Solutions must be found in the framework of international law."

Meanwhile, Deputy Luis Sanchez Sancho of the recently created National Democratic Party said, "the strategy of the military is to provoke foreign intervention because they are arrogant."

Reports about a U.S. invasion circulated here after the Haitian regime forced a UN and OAS mission to leave the island on Wednesday.

The Haitian military headed by General Raoul Cedras overthrew Constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 30 September 1991.

Deputy Foreign Minister Pallais said he trusts the various measures imposed by the United Nations and the OAS to pressure the Haitian military will permit the return of Aristide to the presidency and the recovery of democracy.

Lino Hernandez, president of the Nicaraguan Human Rights Commission, said he "opposes the coupists, but there is no way we can agree with the use of force, because this would give the impression that civilized approaches do not work." He added: "In the long run," an eventual invasion "would only bring bloodshed and death to the Haitian people."

The human rights official affirmed that the path of negotiations and diplomatic pressure must be followed because, after all, "it is the Haitians who must resolve their own problems."

As an alternative in facing the crisis, Hernandez proposed granting firmer support to those sectors inside Haiti that are struggling for democracy. "This sounds difficult, but it is better than violence, which resolves nothing," he said.

In the opinion of Sanchez Sancho, by expelling the international mission, "the military is trying to prompt an intervention; they are backed by the force of weapons."

Deputies such as Miriam Argueyo of the Conservative Popular Alliance declined to comment on the Haitian crisis, because "it is difficult to state opinions on the problems of other countries when we have so many in our own."

Arguello added: "It is a sister nation, and I would like to see its problem resolved, but as I see it, we Nicaraguans must be alert to resolve our own problems first."

Assembly Debates Military Code, Declares Recess

PA1807034494 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Report by Claudia Sirias from the "National Newscast"—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The appointment of the commander in chief of the Army will now depend on consanguinity. No relative of the president of vice president of the Republic, within fourth-degree consanguinity or second-degree affinity, may be appointed chief of the Army. This is the new article in the Military Code, which was submitted by National Opposition Union deputies and approved today by a majority vote in the assembly.

The lawmakers also approved that the Army commander can be removed for making political statements. Despite approving an article yesterday that allows the president to select the head of the Army from a single candidate proposed by the Military Council, the Christian Democratic Union [UDC] and the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement [MDN] insisted that such proposals feature five candidates.

[MDN Deputy Roberto Urroz] "We believe that this was not good, because it does not clearly establish that it is the president who must select the commander in chief of the Armed Forces."

[Sandinist Deputy Sergio Ramirez] "Our position on this is that it should be one person. Of course, the president is free to reject the proposal and request another candidate. You do not need five names or three names. One should suffice."

To bring these positions together, the assembly leadership decided it would revisit the issue after a two-week recess, which begins today. This will delay final approval of the code.

[Assembly President Luis Humberto Guzman] "This is a difficult and controversial bill. It requires more time to discuss the details. We have had several painstaking working sessions, and my colleagues requested at least a two-week recess."

The legislative leadership also condemned the threat campaign led by Radio Corporacion against the deputies. Based on their position on the Military Code, the radio station has listed them as if they were criminals.

[Unidentified Radio Corporacion announcer] "Do you have a pencil and paper ready? Very well, then, take note."

This recording caused strong reactions at the assembly.

[Center Group Deputy Nilo Salazar] "We must speak out responsibly. I believe anything could happen to any one of us deputies. Radio Corporacion is doing everything possible to encourage bloodshed."

Panama

Endara Discusses U.S. Talks on Haitian Refugees

PA1607051194 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 0420 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with President Guillermo Endara by Telemetro News Director Dorita de Reina in Panama City on 15 July; from the "Telemetro Reports" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Reina] I am calling you because in our newsroom we have received a report indicating the United States is still asking the Panamanian Government to accept Haitian refugees. According to the report, the United States has proposed a new formula whereby the Canal Administration would offer land along the Canal to house the Haitians. Is this true?

[Endara] Well, the United States is still interested in having Panama receive an undetermined number of Haitians. U.S. officials have told us that they will not insist on the military base option. They say there is an area in the Panama Canal Zone that could be used. This area is not a defense site or a military base. In this respect, it would be an appropriate place to house the refugees [words indistinct] as they call them.

But I must add we have told the North Americans the problem is not the fact that they have accepted my original conditions. I told them that Panamanian public opinion greatly opposes taking in Haitians. There would have to be a change in public opinion. Given that President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares has said many times he can indeed explain the matter to the Panamanian people, I think he should be the one to convince the people to accept the Haitians. I may help Perez Balladares in this regard, but he must be the one responsible for convincing Panamanians to change their minds, because, after all, he was the one who insisted on this.

[Reina] Does this mean that if Dr. Perez Balladares managed to convince the public, you would agree with the immediate arrival of Haitians refugees in Panama?

[Endara] Not now. If public opinion changes on this issue, I would be willing to consider what I accepted initially—that is, that the Haitians be housed outside military installations, and that the deal be made with the United Nations and not the U.S. Army, as well as that all expenses be paid by the United Nations with the guarantee of the United States.

[Reina] Mr. President, have you spoken to Dr. Perez Balladares recently about this possibility?

[Endara] No, I have not spoken to Dr. Perez Balladares since 4 July, when I spoke to him while he was in Hong Kong.

[Reina] Thank you very much for granting this telephone interview to "Telemetro Reports" for our evening newscast.

[Endara] My pleasure.

[Reina] "Telemetro Reports" has learned the area of Contractor's Hill, on the banks of the Panama Canal, would reportedly be used to house the Haitians.

Endara Not To Try To Convince People To Accept Haitians

PA1707164194 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 17 Jul 94 p A3

[Report by Arnulfo Barroso Watson]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has said he will not try again to convince the Panamanian people to accept Haitian refugees in Panama, because he did this once and the United States failed him.

"I will not try to explain this to the people again, because I did my part, and the United States failed me. I came out looking not so good, because I said yes and had to go back on my word and say no later. This happened because the United States was stubborn and kept insisting on military bases and its Army, issues on which we had not agreed," Endara told EL PANAMA AMERICA.

The U.S. Government has now suggested that President Endara agree to permitting Haitian refugees stay in an area known as Contractor's Hill, an site under the jurisdiction of the Panama Canal Commission. Endara would have to ask the Panama Canal Commission to authorize UN-built camps for the refugees on this site.

Rights Commission: Haitians Have Right to Asylum

PA1707185494 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Jul 94 p A1

[Report by Esperanza Navarro Francois]

[Text] The People's Human Rights Commission [Copodehupa] announced yesterday the Haitians have a right to seek refuge in Panama and be treated as any Panamanian citizen or foreigner living in the country.

Copodehupa issued a communique recalling the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 1967 additional protocol establish that every refugee has rights and that all states must "treat them as any other citizen of the country."

The document adds the way the present and incoming government plan to handle the Haitians "violates the convention," because they were not granted asylum and it will be on an isolated island or on a U.S. military base should they be granted asylum.

Copodehupa explained the Panamanian Government is responsible for creating or promoting adequate social conditions to ensure the presence of the refugees will not

affect the rights of the Panamanian people. The government is also responsible for making it possible for the Panamanian people to express their solidarity for refugees and receive in the country those confronting lamentable situations.

Copodehupa reaffirmed the right to life and believes the Panamanian Government is obligated to maintain an open policy and respect for human rights. The document adds the human aspect of the problem and not the demands being made by the U.S. Government should be the determining factor in Panama's decision.

Meanwhile, law Professor Julio Yao has said Panama is not obligated to accept the UN request, because the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees states the solution to the problem depends on international cooperation and solidarity. According to Yao, Panama has every right to refuse to accept refugees even though a country has signed the convention.

Issues Communique on Haitians

PA1707160294 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jul 94 p 12a

[Text] The Panamanian Human Rights Committee (CPDH) has stated in a communique the only civilized way to resolve the Haitian crisis is through dialogue and negotiation.

The CPDH added international diplomacy should play a more dynamic and effective role in resolving the crisis in the Republic of Haiti.

The CPDH argues the Haitian crisis is due to the poverty, violence, and underdevelopment that has been afflicting this Caribbean nation for many years.

According to the CPDH communique, the Haitian crisis is the result of the intervention by great colonial powers and authoritarian and repressive regimes that have implanted terror and violence throughout the country.

"Any type of invasion or military action against Haiti is rejected, because this action contravenes the principles of human rights," the communique states.

The CPDH, when dealing specifically with the topic of Haitian refugees, believes this issue is the moral responsibility of the Latin American peoples.

Referring to the reception of Haitian refugees, the CPDH communique explains "the principle of equal distribution of responsibility among the different states of the continent should prevail."

The CPDH warns it is not up to the U.S. Government to make proposals to the Panamanian Government on the Haitian refugee case.

Solidarity Party President Backs Cedras Asylum

PA1707165694 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 17 Jul 94 p a4

[Report by Aquilino Ortega Luna]

[Text] Solidarity Party President Samuel Lewis Galindo has said: Even though we do not favor oppressive, dictatorial leaders from other countries living among us, we would support a decision granting General Raoul Cedras political asylum if this sacrifice helps the Haitian people recover their freedom.

Lewis Galindo has said Haiti is going through a tough political period, similar to what the Panamanian people faced during the dictatorship of overthrown Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The political leader's statements came after the announcement a few days ago by President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares during a visit to Madrid. Perez Balladares would be willing once he takes office to grant the Haitian military leadership political asylum if this act resolves the crisis.

Perez Balladares agreed with the idea of offering asylum to a specific number of Haitians under very specific terms.

Lewis Galindo also believes accepting Cedras would contribute to a solution of the Haitian crisis, which is caused by an autocratic and, from the constitutional point of view, illegitimate government.

Justice Commission Chief on Asylum for Haitians

PA1507205394 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 15 Jul 94 p A4

[Report by Juan Manuel Diaz C.]

[Text] Stanley Muschett, president of the Justice and Peace Commission, has said that the possibility that asylum might be granted to the Haitian military should be considered if it favors a solution to the crisis in that nation.

Muschett said that the time has come to show compassion by adopting a position on this nation that requires it. Therefore it would be wise to consider granting asylum to the Haitian military.

He noted that this option should be studied as a way of achieving peace in Haiti and to avoid a mass exodus to different parts of Latin America.

Muschette mentioned that this gesture would foster an environment of tranquillity in which Haiti could return to democracy without violence.

The issue of possible asylum for the Haitian military came up after President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares said he would be willing to grant asylum to that nation's ruler, Raoul Cedras.

Meanwhile, various local sectors have said this could be a way for the Haitian military to leave power, allowing a return to democracy.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry sources indicated that there has been no official request for asylum from the Haitian military but that it could be taken into consideration.

Nevertheless, sources indicated that ultimately this decision would have to be studied by the whole government as it could affect Panama's relations with other nations.

Argentina

Israeli Mutual Association Building Bombed

PY1807140894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1309 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul—An explosive device exploded just before 1000 [1300 GMT] at the Argentine Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA), located at 600 Pasteur St. in Buenos Aires. Numerous people reportedly have been wounded.

The explosion shook the entire Once neighborhood, and the AMIA premises were totally destroyed.

Rescue Efforts Under Way

PY1807141794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1341 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—An explosion has completely destroyed the seven-story building that housed AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association]. It is feared that a large number of people are trapped.

Police arriving on the scene are ordering neighbors and people on the street to remain as quiet as possible, so to be able to locate and rescue people who might be trapped under the rubble.

'About 100' Inside at Time of Explosion

PY1807142794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1349 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—DAIA [Delegation of Argentine-Jewish Associations] Chairman Ruben Beraja has estimated that about 100 people were inside the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] building at the time of the explosion.

Meanwhile, medical personnel are working laboriously to rescue the victims. It has been impossible to establish the number of victims.

Employees Manage to Escape Explosion

PY1807143394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1415 GMT 18 Jul 94

[All names as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—Just a little after 1100 [1400 GMT], personnel at the Argentine Israeli Mutual Association reported that "nearly all" the employees who had been working in the offices of the presidency "had been able to escape" from the attack.

An AMIA employee told the media that "Nerwuerguer, Jorge Berendlum, Ana Maria Lodoben, Cinthia Snein, Silvina from the president's office, and Tamara are alright. The downstairs area and the first floor were the parts of the building that were most affected. The people on the second floor, in the back part of the building, were those who were able to escape."

15 Dead, Nearly 100 Wounded

PY1807172294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1635 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—At least 15 dead and close to 100 wounded to varying degrees is the preliminary result of the bomb that exploded this morning at the Argentine Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) building, located in the 600th block of Pasteur St. in the metropolitan district of Once.

Spokespersons from the Fifth Police Precinct located at 1858 Lavalle St., which has jurisdiction over the area, confirmed just after 1300 that 10 bodies are now in the precinct's morgue, three at Clinicas Hospital, and two at Ramos Mejia Hospital.

Menem Orders 'Preventive' Border Closure

PY1807145894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1436 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—President Carlos Menem has instructed Defense Minister Oscar Camilion to "close the borders" as a preventive measure after the attack against the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association].

This was reported by Media Under Secretary Adalberto Diaz Garcia at Government House. He stated that the chief of state will "at any moment" visit the scene of the attack and "will overfly" the area.

The official also stated that Menem has ordered Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf, who is currently abroad, to immediately return to the country.

'Islamic Command' Claims Responsibility

PY1807142494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1405 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—In a telephone call to Radio Mitre, a so-called Islamic command has claimed responsibility for the bomb attack against the premises of the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association]

The radio announcer informed Ruben Beraja, head of the AMIA, about the telephone call, but he did not give any major details.

Meanwhile, Beraja today stressed that no threats had been received prior to the attack, which occurred just before 1000. The force of the explosion shook several metropolitan districts.

Islamic Center Has 'No Information'

PY1807151194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1451 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—The president of the Argentine Islamic Center stressed a few minutes ago that he has "no information" about a commando from that

community that has reportedly claimed credit for the attack against the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association].

He also "energetically" repudiated the attack, and indicated that he will send a telegram to the Delegation of Argentine-Jewish Associations (DAIA) "with condolences for what occurred this morning."

Defense Minister Deplores Act

PY1807171694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1603 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—Shortly after the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association] building was destroyed by a bomb blast, Defense Minister Oscar Camilion said: "I cannot help but repudiate this new and cowardly attack against one of the communities that since the last century has helped us to build the Argentina of which we all dreamed."

The minister "deeply" deplored the attack, especially as it took place "at a time when the nation is beginning a stage of reactivation and growth, when institutions are consolidating and Argentines are achieving reconciliation."

Camilion confirmed that security organs have closed the borders upon orders from the president.

Police Defusing 'Explosive Device' on Corrientes Avenue

PY1807162494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1611 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—Personnel from the explosives brigade are currently defusing an explosive device at the corner of Corrientes Avenue and Pasteur Street.

Government 'Studying Possibility' of Troops for Haiti

PY1507221194 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 14 Jul 94 p 17

[Article by GP]

[Text] Officials sources assured PAGINA/12 that the Argentine Government is studying the possibility of sending 600 men to participate in an eventual armed intervention in Haiti if the call comes from the UN Security Council. Defense sources made it clear that "there are no numbers yet," but they confirmed that the decision remains firm and that they are also hoping that the decision will be defined in August.

Government officials have told this newspaper that during the first consultations with the United Nations and the United States, Argentina explained that it could mobilize "up to 600 men" because the cost would be similar to the outlay that is currently being made to maintain a frigate off the coasts of Haiti.

According to these sources, the United Nations presumably expressed interest in that Argentine troopers carry out police functions after the intervention, but the national authorities have presumably made it clear that this is not the desired option. "The possibility of casualties would be much higher in patrolling the streets of Port-au-Prince than in an eventual landing from the sea," the sources stated.

Moreover, defense sources indicated with prudence that "there are no numbers yet," because "it is necessary to study logistical problems and to carry out a technical and factual analysis. Therefore, everything that is said is mere speculation." They admitted that the UN requirements include "military, police, and civilian units," but they refused to specify.

In the midst of so much prudence, they indicated that 1 August is the schedule that is being managed in Buenos Aires. Presumably on that date "the United Nations will issue a resolution containing a review of the situation."

The Defense Ministry has been reticent in participating in the Haitian conflict in view of the fear that it could lead to unforeseen confrontations similar to those that occurred in Somalia. Moreover, this time it was able to impose its criteria in that Argentine participation will only occur within the framework of a resolution issued by the UN Security Council.

Members of the U.S. National Security Agency such as Robert McNamara and Richard Fainberg met in Buenos Aires with Defense Minister Oscar Camilion and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella to outline their country's viewpoint and affirm the U.S. interest in overthrowing the regime of Raoul Cedras.

The Foreign Ministry has been more receptive regarding President Bill Clinton's urgency, and it has never hidden its willingness to support an intervention in Haiti, no matter how. In a news conference for foreign correspondents, Di Tella this week explained the situation in elemental but very clear terms: "We want a crack at them."

'Determined' To Participate

PY1507223194 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 15 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella has officially confirmed to PAGINA/12 that Scott Talbott was the U.S. representative who, at the OAS Headquarters, requested of Argentine officials "a battalion" to support an armed intervention in Haiti, something which has been practically decided. The number of servicemen who make up "a battalion" ranges between 800 and 1,000.

The controversy began precisely on this point. Officials complain in the corridors of the Defense Ministry that "the Foreign Ministry has already committed itself; still, there is no way we can get that number together. Contingents from Croatia and Cyprus are returning to the country and the volunteers to replace them are already quartermaster sergeants."

Sources close to the Foreign Ministry, however, deny that this should be so. They state that "we have not discussed

any number with the Defense Ministry, as it is this ministry that will decide this question according to its possibilities and logistics problems." Officials who participated in the meetings between the defense and foreign ministries confirmed that "it is too early to talk about figures." They were all of one mind as to the fact that the overriding consideration in determining the number of Argentine servicemen who will participate in the operation was funding, although Defense Ministry officials also contended that there were real logistical problems in assembling so many men.

Sources close to the Defense Ministry pointed out that the most likely number is some 600 servicemen. According to preliminary estimates, this would entail expenses that are on par with the financial resources that are currently earmarked to maintain a frigate that is off the coast of Haiti participating in the blockade ordered by the UN Security Council against Raoul Cedras' regime.

Moreover, they stressed that Argentina decided not to send gendarmes to discharge police duties—although this is the type of participation chosen by other countries that support the United States in its crusade to reinstate Bertrand Aristide as Haitian president—because the risk of having casualties "is greater in the streets of Port-au-Prince than during a landing."

In any case, President Carlos Menem has already made the decision and Argentina will take part in the crusade. Petrella explained that "Argentina is determined to pursue this endeavor. What remains to be determined is the level of this determination."

This is not the first difference between the foreign and defense ministries over this issue, which comes under the jurisdiction of both ministries. The ongoing suggestion that Defense Minister Oscar Camilion might replace Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella is a highly relevant point in this case, although both ministers denied it. Furthermore, there is an obvious difference between them over their approach to diplomatic relations.

Camilion, who adheres more closely to traditional diplomacy and has been brought up in the school of nationalism, has more reservations regarding Argentina's participation in international missions that are not clearly endorsed by the UN Security Council, while Di Tella is more responsive to U.S. views and needs. Just in case, on 14 July the foreign minister stressed that "we have not discussed—and are not discussing—a multilateral military intervention in Haiti," adding that any solution to the crisis confronting that country "must be backed by the UN Security Council."

Defense Minister: No Haiti Intervention Without UN

PY1507233494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2121 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jul (EFE)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion asserted on 15 July that Argentina will not adopt a combative attitude in the event it participates in military operations in Haiti to restore democracy in that country.

The minister thus referred to U.S. intention of invading Haiti and requesting troops from other countries in order to undertake this military operation.

In remarks made to the press, Camilion reiterated that any decision on the Haitian situation "must be made within the scope of the UN Security Council's decisions."

Camilion thus ruled out any type of participation in this issue "without it having been first settled by the United Nations." He went on to say that "once the Haitian constitutional authorities are reinstated in office, we would be able to cooperate in the restoration of democracy."

"As no decisions have been made at the United Nations, and there are very opposing stances on this subject, we cannot make any comments on that," he added.

He stressed that "if there is no clear decision on this issue by the United Nations, there would be no financing" for the operation, which "is an additional difficulty to bear in mind."

Upon being asked whether Argentina might have a "more active" role in a possible armed intervention in Haiti, the defense minister insisted that "we will certainly not adopt a combative attitude in a Latin American country."

Brazil

Itamaraty: Diplomatic 'Crisis' With Portugal 'Over'

PY1607013194 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1933 GMT 14 Jul 94

[By Diana Fernandes]

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 14 Jul (AE)—To avoid a new diplomatic incident in Brazilian foreign policy, such as the incident between President Itamar Franco and Argentine President Carlos Menem, Itamaraty declared over the recent crisis with the Portuguese Government, which Ambassador Jose Aparecido de Oliveira started in Lisbon. Irritated over the canceling of the Lisbon conference scheduled for the end of June that would have created the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Peoples (CPLP), Oliveira criticized Portuguese Foreign Minister Durao Barroso. According to the Portuguese media, this displeased the local government.

Using as a pretext a discussion of the case of the Brazilian dentists in Portugal, Itamaraty summoned Pedro Ribeiro de Menezes, Portuguese ambassador to Brazil, for a meeting on 13 July. The Brazilian diplomats held the meeting in secret, in an attempt to avoid—at any cost—a new diplomatic crisis. Itamaraty spokesman Luiz Fernando Benedinni said: "I have no news on this issue."

There was great fear of a new incident, particularly with Portugal, a country deemed a "brother" nation, especially because Ambassador Oliveira was one of the protagonists.

A diplomat said: "An incident with Oliveira would be much more complicated than the one Brazil had with Argentina." He was referring to Oliveira's close friendship with President Itamar Franco. [passage omitted]

During the meeting Itamaraty Secretary General Roberto Abdenur held with the Portuguese ambassador on 13 July, there was an attempt to calm the reactions. Meanwhile, at the Portuguese Embassy, press adviser Jaime Raposo Costa reported that there had been no problem between the two countries: "All there has been was an interview published by the papers. In Portugal, as well as here, there is freedom of the press."

Ricupero Facing Pressure To Grant Wage Hikes

PY1507134394 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 0041 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Report by Beatriz Abreu and Jocimar Nastari]

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Jul (AE)—Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero today admitted for the first time that he is facing mounting pressure to loosen up the implementation of the Real Plan. He said he is withstanding pressure from exporters, businessmen, workers, and public servants themselves, who are asking for salary increases. In a terse statement, he said: "I will not yield to such pressure."

Despite a bad flu and headache, Ricupero spent two and half hours with members of a congressional joint committee to discuss the economic plan. He again reaffirmed his personal commitment to fully implement every stage of the plan. He said: "I am personally committed to making the plan a success and, as far as I am concerned, we will fully comply with every stage of it, including that of securing a balanced budget."

Ricupero is concerned about the $2.5 billion unbudgeted amount that he will need to raise if the government grants a 28.5 percent salary increase to both military and civilian public servants. The economic team is against granting a salary increase at this time. Ricupero wants to persuade President Itamar Franco to start granting salary increases beginning in September, although in lower percentages than those claimed by military personnel.

Ricupero also wants to set up a timetable for next year for compensating public servants for losses in their purchasing power. An adviser said: "The pressure to grant increases to military personnel is becoming untenable." Ricupero declined to comment on the negotiations, but confirmed that on 18 or 19 July there will be a cabinet meeting to discuss the military salary issue.

According to Ricupero, pressure is also being exerted by workers of the private sector, by those who "want to continue with monetary correction," and by exporters. He said: "They feel threatened by the parity existing between the real and the dollar, or even by the different rates used by the Central Bank to purchase and to sell dollars." Ricupero said he wants to avoid past errors. "It is a duty I have assumed before the Brazilian people." He added: "I will do everything I can, but the implementation of the plan is also dependent upon the government itself and the private sector."

Deputies present at today's plenary session, namely Deputy Miro Teixeira (Democratic Labor Party-Rio de Janeiro), were taken by surprise by the determination with which Ricupero defended the plan, criticizing "private consultants who are inclined to exaggerate everything" and businessmen who are engaging in abusive price markups. Teixeira said: "The minister is soft spoken, but he is very intense as far as content is concerned." Ricupero reaffirmed that the plan has been successful thus far, and that its ultimate success will depend upon "firmly staying on course."

Cardoso Seen Benefiting From Internal PT Dispute

PY1607021794 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Jul 94 p 2

[From the "Political Outlook" column by Tereza Cruvinel: "Pleasing the Enemy"]

[Text] The Workers Party [PT] yesterday made the wishes of Fernando Henrique Cardoso's allies come true by deciding to maintain Senator Jose Paulo Bisol as candidate for vice president on Lula's ticket. All day long yesterday the members of the Brazilian Social Democracy Party [PSDB] campaign committee expressed the wish that no substitution be made on the PT ticket. By staying on the ticket, the PSDB leaders said, Bisol will be a permanent source of conflicts that will cause Lula to lose face. In addition to being short- tempered and independent, Bisol has been compared to a lightning rod—following the role he played at congressional investigative committees—because he has now come under attack from every direction. They did expect, however, that the PT would take a surgical approach to this problem. They believe that, although Bisol's substitution would shake the PT campaign, Lula would still have time and energy to recover. Yet, the PT chose to ignore Bisol's resignation and to maintain him on the ticket.

Jose Fortunatti, leader of the PT congressional bloc, yesterday said: We cannot hang Bisol only because we want to protect ourselves against short-term poll results and media coverage. Fortunatti was thus reflecting the line of thought prevailing at the meeting of PT leaders held in Sao Paulo. Yet, he said, charges against Bisol will be considered from the ethical and legal standpoint. Fortunatti added that, in case any of the charges brought against Bisol are confirmed, he will be the first to request that he be replaced. In the meantime, he said, all those who are exerting undue pressure should keep quiet.

In addition to the PT decision to keep Bisol on the ticket, the PSDB members have other reasons to celebrate. The PT leadership came out divided from this episode; those PT bloc members who called for Bisol's departure will be reprimanded, and there is confusion now within the front that supports Lula. When he talked about undue pressures, Fortunatti was alluding primarily to People's Socialist Party leader Roberto Freire, who was adamant about

demanding Bisol's resignation. Some people claim that Freire was dreaming about replacing Bisol on the ticket.

Chile

Figueroa Reaffirms Not Sending Troops to Haiti

PY1607000894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2216 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Santiago, 15 Jul (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa reiterated today that Chile will not contribute troops to an eventual military intervention in Haiti. He added that the technical assistance Chile may grant the Haitian police will be provided after democracy has been restored.

In Figueroa's opinion, the stance of President Eduardo Frei's government is based on the support for actions being carried out in Haiti by order of the UN Security Council.

Figueroa added that "we have offered our cooperation for the democratic reconstruction of Haiti, in fields such as justice, police matters, health, and community organization."

Figueroa explained: "When I talk about police, I am not talking about a military police. I am talking about granting technical assistance to organize a police force that could even be a plainclothes force. This assistance would be granted later on, during a democratic reconstruction process."

Figueroa noted: "We feel we must cooperate together with other countries, but it will all depend on whether or not the new Haitian government wants our cooperation."

He also disclosed that yesterday the Chilean ambassador to the United States, Patricio Silva, received a call from the assistant to the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madelaine Albright, to inform him that comments she made, which were subsequently transmitted by press agencies, including Chile in a list of countries that would send troops to Haiti had been distorted.

Figueroa said: "What the ambassador said was that some eight or ten countries will support operations in Haiti after the departure of the military regime and mentioned Chile as a potential supporter of the UN and OAS mission."

Moreover, Chilean Ambassador to Haiti Luis Larrain, who was consulted by the daily LA SEGUNDA during a telephone conversation, said he was not aware of the ambassador's comments.

When asked whether people in Port-au-Prince believed that the U.S. intervention was imminent, Larrain answered: "It seems more imminent with each passing day."

Colombia

Samper Cited on U.S. Relations, Drug Tapes

PA1707230394 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Jul 94 p 8A

[Report by Fabiola Beltran on interview with President-elect Ernesto Samper by unidentified Colombian reporters in Paris on 12 July—reporters' questions published in boldface]

[Text] Today at 1100, Paris time, Colombian President-elect Ernesto Samper will meet French President Francois Mitterrand and several of his closest associates. The meeting comes within the framework of Samper's two-week-old diplomatic tour of Europe.

This weekend, Samper travels to England, where a meeting with British Prime Minister John Major has yet to be confirmed.

Following yesterday's reception hosted by Colombian Ambassador to France Gloria Pachon de Galan at her home, President-elect Samper met with Colombian reporters. Samper talked about the current state of relations with the United States, the narcocassettes, the use of the money the country will receive in the wake of the oil and coffee boom, and Latin American products on the European market. Here are some of the questions Samper answered:

[Reporter] **Have relations between Colombia and the United States deteriorated?**

[Samper] No, I do not believe they have. It seems to me that we have experienced a series of circumstances that have somewhat hindered the traditional friendly relations. Nevertheless, I am certain these circumstances will soon be overcome.

[Reporter] **What were these circumstances?**

[Samper] Lately, we have encountered some problems, and they have somewhat hindered the transparency that existed in our relations with the United States. Nevertheless, my mandate does not begin until 7 August, and I would prefer that the current government comment on this situation.

[Reporter] **Regarding the narcocassettes: Is this a maneuver to destabilize Ernesto Samper or the country? If so, who might be interested in this kind of destabilization?**

[Samper] The truth is that I have no idea who is behind all of this, but I can say that this situation has greatly damaged the nation.

This visit to Europe and the United States, in recent days when I have had a chance to rest, has been aimed at showing the positive side of our country and in reiterating the interest Colombia has not only in sharing drug trafficking, but for the people to see there is another side to Colombia. [sentence as published]

Unfortunately, the truth of the matter is that they only speak to the Colombians about drug trafficking. I believe

there are positive things that unfortunately are not discussed in the media. As I was telling some French businessmen this morning, we have good things to talk about—the coffee bonanza that will allow us to compete in the market for the next three years and help us overcome the coffee crisis, as well as the discoveries in Cusiana that will allow us to consolidate our oil boom.

[Reporter] **What plans does your government have to take advantage of these windfalls?**

[Samper] We have plans for two main areas—the material and social infrastructures. Colombia must make the best efforts possible to improve its ports, roads, and railroads and to modernize its telecommunications and transportation industries.

This will be one of my government's priorities. We have a construction plan that will continue until the end of the century. Its implementation and completion could cost more than $15 billion, which is a sizable amount in any country. Second, we plan to make social investments.

Colombia, like many other Latin American countries, needs to invest in health, education, housing, and justice in order for the people to feel part of this economic process.

[Reporter] **Did you ever find out who planted the microphone in your office?**

[Samper] Had we found out, we would have released the information. It was a disrespectful case of electronic espionage. I believe the authorities have all of the evidence.

[Reporter] **Are foreigners involved in this?**

[Samper] I do not know, and I dare not speak of this. This is also in the hands of the authorities, and we are going to wait for their statement.

[Reporter] **There has been talk in Colombia of opening to the world. How can Colombia get closer to Europe? Access to Europe is getting more and more difficult for Latin America.**

[Samper] First, you know we have some advantages in terms of Europe, because we have a preferential system and tax agreements with the region. These are 10-year agreements we hope will be extended. These conditions make Colombia's access to Europe relatively easy.

Second, it is obvious that we are headed toward the formation of an Inter-American trade bloc. The integration of the three Americas is in Latin America's immediate future. Nevertheless, this does not mean we do not need strong ties with Europe. Regional integration is necessary, however, to negotiate the best possible trade conditions within Latin America, as well as for other reasons.

Besides having a legitimate interest in what Latin America represents for Eastern Europe, there is wave of neoprotectionism in the world, which also I see in Europe. There are no more tariff barriers, but there are all kinds of para-tariff barriers, sterile red tape, dumping charges, and environmental measures, all of which hamper exports from our country. I believe Europe should review these obstacles, at least in terms of Latin America. They are denying access to many Latin American products. In Colombia's case, we have bananas, coal, and flowers, and this is causing a great deal of damage.

Although we are geographically distant from Europe, culturally we are very close. We should forge a new relationship based on this with a view to the 21st century.

Foreign Minister-Designate Interviewed on Drug Efforts

PA1507154894 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jul

[Telephone interview with Rodrigo Pardo, foreign minister-designate, from an undisclosed location in Europe, by Caracol News Director Dario Arizmendi and an unidentified reporter in Santa Fe de Bogota; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] There is much uncertainty, anxiety, and a feeling of repudiation and rejection of what has been referred to as some kind of conspiracy against the country due to the discussion of the so-called narco-cassettes, which involve important Colombian figures. We want to know your opinion of the UPI report, which is in the hands of the Arabs today, informing its few subscribers that Ernesto Samper Pizano's campaign reportedly received close to $3 million.

[Pardo] I think it is very irresponsible, because they are playing with the image of a country that has worked the hardest in the antidrug trafficking struggle and has most decisively committed itself to this struggle; in addition, this country has paid the highest price and has implemented the most effective policies. Furthermore, I believe it is also an irresponsibility against possible cooperation between Colombia and the United States and the rest of the international community. We know that international cooperation is the only possible way to decrease or control this drug problem. I believe it is also irresponsible due to the baseless accusations being made. These charges are, in fact, being seriously investigated, and investigations are the only ones that can give credible results.

[Arizmendi] Do you believe the attitude assumed by President Cesar Gaviria's government stands up to the demands of this thorny issue?

[Pardo] I believe so. I believe President Gaviria's government has all the authority and credibility to tell the international community that Colombia is the country which has worked the hardest in the antidrug trafficking struggle. I can ask you to study statistics presented by the United Nations and specialized agencies in the United States, Europe, or any other country, and you will find that drug use is increasing everywhere, that money laundering has not decreased, that the use of chemicals to produce cocaine has not dropped, and that you will find in this recently uncovered report that Colombia is asked to make additional sacrifices and efforts and pay more dearly in this struggle.

[Arizmendi] Is Dr. Samper planning to address the UPI to repudiate and reject such a report?

[Pardo] Yes we will, because we believe the damage done to the country's international image and the credibility of the government and Colombian society is too great. We are going to investigate more thoroughly the origin of this information. We are worried the irresponsibility not only lies on the part of journalists but, eventually, on the part of people who are trying to promote and infiltrate information and give reports hiding behind the anonymity of the sources, information that goes unconfirmed, thus creating a bad image of Colombia throughout the world.

[Arizmendi] I want to note, Mr. Foreign Minister, that journalist Atala Murris, permanent correspondent of Caracol Network and the "CMI Newscast", reported last night in her newscast and during "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast this morning that she talked with the UPI reporter who covers news from the State Department and all the agencies headquartered in Washington. Murris said the UPI reporter told her he used DEA sources.

[Pardo] The truth is there are many versions. We must take this seriously and study it carefully. I believe we must get to the source of this issue to uproot the problem.

Colombia, the most serious country in the antidrug struggle, cannot be at the mercy of the irrational and absurd reactions of officials or journalists who are misinformed or who are being misused. I do not know if you realize the UPI report includes a crazy and lunatic statement. It quotes, I believe, an anonymous U.S. Government source that pointed to the need to have good relations with Colombia; otherwise, the United States will be unable to invade Haiti. That is completely absurd, illogical, and absolutely insane. I believe that is the most unreal aspect of the report.

[Arizmendi] In Colombia it has been learned that President-elect Ernesto Samper has personally asked President Cesar Gaviria to intercede with the State Department to determine exactly what is the U.S. Government's position is. As a result of the Colombian president's request, the State Department called the UPI report false, deceitful, and irresponsible. Will President-elect Samper speak directly to the State Department on this same subject?

[Pardo] We don't plan to. A series of meetings have been planned between now and 7 August. Of course, after 7 August we will continue to work on these topics and on creating the mechanisms that will permit effective cooperation based on the friendship and dignity that must characterize cooperation.

We have discussed a working visit by three ministers who will be part of the incoming government: the justice, defense, and foreign relations ministers. The meeting will be held possibly next week or the following, the week of 25 July, with members of the State Department, DEA, and the various U.S. agencies that deal with this and other bilateral relations issues. This will be to exchange ideas and to outline future cooperation policies.

Dario, in this instance one can see the importance of Ernesto Samper's proposals made since the electoral campaign, that is, to organize a commission or a working group, or a bilateral commission to represent the governments' various agencies that deal with the drug problem. The truth is that on many occasions one would like to have more unity in all the comments, in all the statements made on the issue. At times, one encounters variations in the nuances, even differences of opinion, that in the end I think really confuse public opinion in our country and even internationally. I believe we Colombians, the North Americans, and all countries with drug problems must be very serious. It is not a matter of one country gaining ground over the others. The idea is to establish cooperation that is effective in reducing the drug problem.

[Arizmendi] What basis can there be for the report circulating in our country that all this confusion and information being generated by the so-called narcocassettes stem from a confrontation, a struggle among the DEA, the CIA, the FBI, and other U.S. agencies as a result of budget cuts and the struggle for power within President Bill Clinton's government?

[Pardo] One has heard and one continues to hear many reports in this regard. I believe we still do not have enough information to assert this categorically, but undoubtedly this is a theory we must look into and cannot rule out. We must pay a great deal of attention to this because all these reports are coming from somewhere, all these communiques, all these anonymous sources that speak out and that are widely diseeminated by the media. These are creating a very big problem for the nation's image and for the prospects of international cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking.

[Arizmendi] Given that many sectors believe it was the DEA that started all the scandal, what will happen if it is proven in fact that the DEA encouraged the disclosure of these narcocassettes and all this campaign of slander against the president-elect? What will the incoming government's relations be like with the DEA?

[Pardo] We want to have a cooperative relationshp with the entire U.S. Government. The U.S. Goverment's internal problem of having a bureaucracy and assigned duties among its agencies is not our problem, but we are in a position to demand a single voice, a single policy, and a single attitude. Therefore, in a constructive manner, in a friendly manner, in a dignified manner—the three characteristics that this cooperation must have—Samper has proposed this binational commission. This would be a working group that would be installed or will be installed... [pauses] because the problem is that this can be implemented, with all the government agencies. This is to coordinate all policies to have one cooperation policy.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Pardo, can one believe from what we already know and from what one can deduce from your remarks that the DEA goes one way, the State Department goes another way, and [word indistinct] President Clinton still another way?

[Pardo] Well, we want to prevent this. Lately there have been many articles in the international press. There have also been books on the topic that raise this issue, at least hypothetically. Rather than stating this as a fact, I would prefer to say that in order for the policy to be effective and for the joint actions that we want to carry out in the struggle against drug trafficking to be effective, it is necessary that this not happen. In other words, there must not be a division of opinions; there must not be a division of interests. There must be a single voice and a single policy. We are determined to work on that and to coordinate that.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Foreign Minister: Although the president-elect has been to Spain and France on private visits—and he is about to begin one to England—have authorities there been receptive? What about the media in Spain and France?

[Pardo] Dario, I am very satisfied. I believe these visits have been very successful, even though they have been private visits. Dr. Samper was received practically as an incumbent head of state in both Spain and France. We are working on our agenda for a similar visit next week to London. I feel there is a different viewpoint in Europe about the problems affecting Latin America and Latin American relations with the United States. I think that there is a greater scope, and in some cases one even finds greater concepts. One finds positions that are even more similar to ours. They even agree more than what one can find among the Colombian public, for example.

[Arizmendi] Dr. Rodrigo Pardo, what can Colombia do to face the problem of the lack of respect, of this international plot that has been brought up when the U.S. State Department for all intents and purposes refused to correct the false information reported by UPI?

[Pardo] I think that we must act with dignity. I think Colombia is a country that not only has nothing to hide but of which we should feel very proud—proud of everything that we have and for the Colombia we Colombians know very well. Many foreigners, including many people in the U.S. Government and other friendly governments, also know that about Colombia. We must strive to show the rest of the world that a positive Colombia coexists with all the well-known problems.

[Reporter] Dr. Pardo, regardless of the diplomatic efforts expended in this type of case and protest, has any thought been given to taking legal action against UPI for defamation and violation of media laws?

[Pardo] Not for the time being, Judith, because we are first trying to carefully establish where the information came from, what the sources were, what the ulterior motives were. We will determine what action to take only when we have a clearer picture.

[Arizmendi] Dr. Rodrigo Pardo, how alone are we in the struggle against narco-trafficking?

[Pardo] Excuse me. Would you please repeat the question?

[Arizmendi] How alone are we? Judging by statements made yesterday by President Gaviria and by other statements made elsewhere in the country, how alone is Colombia in the struggle against drug trafficking?

[Pardo] I think Colombians feel very much alone. The problem is not if there are or are not countries that announce their plans to fight against drug trafficking. The problem is how effective action that the other countries are taking really are. We have lots of statistics on the seizures we have made, on the people who have been imprisoned, on the dismantling of the Cali Cartel, on the deaths, on the very important and beloved people who have been murdered in this struggle. We do observe that efforts by other countries have not produced similar results. To the contrary, all statistics show that the world's drug trafficking problem has not decreased in the last 10 years; to the contrary, it has increased.

For example, we recently learned about the latest report by the International Drug Control Board, JIFE. That is a UN body set up specifically to check drug control policies. The report shows that consumption has increased in the majority of the industrialized countries, that money laundering has increased, that practically all facets of drug trafficking have increased. Naturally, we Colombians feel very alone, not only because we do not find any expressions of solidarity or commitment but because we do not see any results of actions taken by other countries.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Foreign Minister, Caracol has learned of the Colombian Foreign Ministry's reply to the U.S. State Department's diplomatic note of a few days ago precisely on this issue of our country's policies in the fight against drug trafficking. In that note, Dr. Noemi Sanin Posada says that if the U.S. Government insists on interfering with the sovereign and autonomous policy of our country, the Colombian Government would be willing to turn down the unilateral assistance the U.S. Government offers to the Colombian Government for fighting narcotics trafficking. In 1994, that assistance will amount to approximately $37 million. Would the new administration follow that same line if the U.S. Government were not sufficiently clear, upright, and respectful of the Colombian stand?

[Pardo] Yes, of course. I fully agree with the text of the Foreign Ministry note. We Colombians strongly believe we want an effective policy against drug trafficking, not because there are interests outside our borders on this issue, but because we are interested in this matter and because it is a matter of principle. Colombia is a country that will continue working to eradicate drug trafficking because this has been the most disruptive factor to our progress, to our tranquillity, and even to our economy. That is why we do not depend on what other governments do in going ahead with our commitment.

I clearly understand that it is not ideal that Colombia continue struggling alone. To the contrary, we Colombians know better than any other country or nation that actions against drug trafficking are effective only if they are accompanied by similar actions in other countries, and that there be other countries that commit themselves with

the same seriousness and determnination with which we have done. This is why prior to adopting extreme measures, we will try at any cost to promote international cooperation and to make drug consumption, money laundering, and drug shipping countries and countries with which we have close friendships and political relations commit themselves. We will ask them to make more commitments in the fight against drug trafficking.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Foreign Minister, we owe the disbanding of the Medellin cartel and the murder of its chief, Pablo Escobar Gaviria, to the Cesar Gaviria administration. What position will the Ernesto Samper government take in facing the Cali and other drug cartels?

[Pardo] The struggle against crime and drug trafficking is the objective of any government. Dr. Samper discussed this issue clearly during his presidential campaign. Now that he is the president-elect, he has said he favors a surrender policy, which may require some corrections to surmount some of its weaknesses. For instance, he favors increasing sentences for some crimes. We Colombians have seen with shock how some crimes are committed, crimes like the rape on that Bogota bus. In addition to drug trafficking, there are other crimes that require that the Penal Code stipulate harsher sentences. The new government is willing to work on this to ensure that those drug traffickers or criminals who surrender will receive sentences harsh enough to appease public opinion. Of course, the new government has decided, based on its own principles, that we must continue to fight crime with the same determination as did recent administrations in Colombia.

[Reporter] Dr. Pardo, will the Ernesto Samper Pizano government's position be tougher in the fight against existing cartels?

[Pardo] Yes, of course. Our position will be tougher in the fight against all existing criminal organizations and all mechanisms that international drug trafficking may use to continue its operations in Colombia. This is an issue that will never be set aside. I am convinced that the best method to fight these types of crimes is to improve legal instruments and the judicial system. I think the Gaviria government made a huge contribution to this matter, but we need to make some corrections, as Dr. Samper already pointed out. We hope these corrections and the surrender policy will make justice even more effective in wiping out all vestiges of drug trafficking in our country.

[Arizmendi] This talk with you is very interesting, because you are the new foreign minister. Taking advantage of this opportunity and changing the subject, we want to ask you about the new government's position on a U.S. military invasion to Haiti.

[Pardo] We share the views of the Gaviria administration, views that I realize have had a stronger international impact than previously thought. There is an editorial in the 14 July issue of THE NEW YORK TIMES objecting to the use of force until other resources are exhausted. This is also the position of France, a country that is very close to Haiti. In other words, the greatest concern of these nations—a concern that we share—is that after an eventual armed intervention, the problems of rebuilding the Haitian state, government, and institutions will be remain the same; an armed intervention will fail to solve those problems that triggered the current situation. Prior to executing an armed intervention, it would be advisable to try rebuilding an institutional system in Haiti with other mechanisms. We can even evaluate the possibility of toughening the economic measures against and the embargo on Haiti. I think this is what France and other countries will do. We will support their position.

[Arizmendi] In other words, will the new government support military intervention only as a last resort?

[Pardo] Not only that—we will always prefer other alternatives insofar as we believe that the objectives we want to achieve in Haiti can be achieved through measures other than force.

[Arizmendi] When will the first ambassadors be appointed?

[Pardo] I believe that as soon as the new government is inaugurated, Dario. The truth is that Dr. Samper has not had the time to make these appointments. I believe we can announce the first ambassadorial appointments after 7 August.

[Arizmendi] Are you planning to meet with the British prime minister during your visit to the United Kingdom?

[Pardo] We are still working on the agenda of this visit; I do not have the information on the working plan at this time. We were trying to prepare an agenda similar to that followed in Spain and France; that is, we will meet with high-ranking government officials, private citizens, and journalists.

[Arizmendi] How does Dr. Samper feel after UPI published, in the State Department's opinion, a slanderous and misleading report?

[Pardo] Obviously he was angry at first, but you know Dr. Samper is a poised man. He continues to work on making arrangements for his government, which is his main goal.

[Arizmendi] Thank you, Dr. Rodrigo Pardo, new foreign minister, for your statements to Emisoras Caracol. Good luck during the rest of your trip, Dr. Pardo.

Envoy Remarks on UPI Report, Drug Efforts

PA1507184894 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Gabriel Silva, Colombian ambassador to the United States, from the Colombian Embassy in Washington, D.C., by Caracol News Director Dario Arizmendi at the network studio in Santa Fe de Bogota; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Summary From Poor Reception] [Arizmendi] "Dr. Silva, tell us about your meeting with State Department officials who were working on your request for clarification of a UPI report.

[Silva] "I received instructions from the president and the foreign minister to go to the State Department and learn of any explanation about the UPI report. The officials in charge of Colombian affairs and relations with Colombia clearly told me it was a false report, that it was an (?irresponsible) action by some U.S. agency official....

[Arizmendi, interrupting] "The version that has been learned in Colombia....

[Silva, interrupting] "...and try to identify the source of this erroneous information.

[Arizmendi] "Mr. Ambassador, what did you say to that answer?

[Silva] "I said what the government, the president, and the foreign minister had said to the effect that Colombia feels such situations and such anonymous officials are a threat to bilateral relations, because they create an adverse political atmosphere that affects the dignity of the country and the good name of the president-elect.

[Arizmendi] "The report circulating in Colombia on the official position of the U.S. State Department reads as follows: The Clinton administration has not taken any definitive position and does not have a definite conclusion; it is irresponsible for any person to suggest anything else. Are you fully pleased with that answer?

[Silva] "I am studying the State Department answer I received and its scope. Nothing of what is happening is satisfactory. In both Colombia and in the United States, we have gotten carried away by individuals who seek to deteriorate bilateral relations by sowing distrust in the United States and initiating a nationalist hysteria in Colombia.

[Arizmendi] "(Atala Morris), the permanent correspondent for Caracol and the CMI newscast reported last night and early this morning in Caracol that the UPI journalist who drafted that report admitted to her he had used the DEA as his source. Based on this statement by the journalist himself, is the Colombian Government planning to take some action?

[Silva] "We have asked the United States to investigate [words indistinct]. Naturally, we have to wait for the official results of that investigation. We have to take very good care of those [words indistinct].

[Arizmendi] "Was the State Department very emphatic with you when it denied it has any evidence the president-elect's campaign received $3 million?

[Silva] "The officials told me yesterday information is being (?investigated).

[Arizmendi] "Did they tell you they continued to study those charges, or have they closed the case?

[Silva] "(?Something new) comes out every day about the famous cassettes. It creates discomfort, a concern in both Colombia and in the United States. I believe the Colombian Government, the judiciary authorities, everyone in Colombia has been very worried over that situation.

[Arizmendi] "Dr. Rodrigo Pardo, the new foreign minister, spoke during Caracol's 0600 to 0900 newscast earlier this morning and said the new administration considers it basic that the U.S. Government proceed in a united manner, with a single criterion. It seems right now the DEA is doing one thing—something else—and the State Department another. How do you personally feel about Dr. Rodrigo Pardo's statement?

[Silva] "I fully agree with him. Government officials sometimes, unfortunately, voice different views in a democracy; that is not advisable. Naturally, in a country where there are thousands of officials at all levels of the state, it is very easy to hear various opinions from the various members of the bureaucracy of that country. This is something that deals with the structure of this country, and this is not the first time this has happened. I believe it was during President Nixon's administration. He could not continue [passage indistinct].

[Arizmendi] "Do you plan to hold another meeting with State Department officials or other officials from another level of the Clinton administration? Do you think you will hold another meeting anytime soon on this issue?

[Silva] "We hold [words indistinct] meetings every day at various levels and with various officials. It is possible we might meet again today.

[Arizmendi] "Do you agree with certain analysts of U.S. politics who say the scandal created by spy Aldrich Ames and Colombian Maria del Rosario Casas, in addition to everything that has been uncovered about the CIA, plus the lack of efficiency that is noticeable with the DEA and other U.S. agencies, have created some type of internal war among them to gain support from the U.S. Congress and President Clinton in budget matters?

[Silva] "No, I do not believe so.... [pauses] I do not know.... [pauses] It seems difficult [passage indistinct].

[Arizmendi] "Many Colombians here in Colombia believe the DEA is promoting these many scandals. Does the Colombian Government feel the same way, or does it think the DEA has nothing to do with it?

[Silva] "The Colombian Government has asked me to investigate the sources, the individuals who are conspiring not only against the Colombian Government's policy or just [words indistinct] Colombia, or policies of President Clinton who have voiced his wishes to cooperate with Colombia. Thus, this action is just not against the country but is an action against the U.S. Government itself.

[Arizmendi] "Are you optimistic in believing the State Department is going to give you a satisfactory answer concerning the source of these reports?

[Silva] "I am optimistic. I believe our relations are much better than [word indistinct]. It seems to me the basis is stronger, and we must try to preserve that basis. That is the best disposition for this issue. All obstacles will be surpassed."

[Arizmendi] "If it is confirmed the DEA has used the UPI, what position will the Colombian Government take with regard to the DEA?

[Silva] "I cannot make statements based on hypothesis; besides, it is not up to me. It is a decision that is in the president's hands [words indistinct] after 7 August. [Words indistinct] it seems one must be very careful with regard to that theory, because it could create hysteria [words indistinct] against the United States and, most of all, it leads to a disposition that can result in the weakening of international cooperation, because the only winners in such a situation would be the drug traffickers.

[Arizmendi] "You have twice used the term nationalist hysteria in Colombia. At the beginning of this interview, you said there are people interested in tarnishing relations and promoting hysteria. You used the term again. Do you believe we are hysterical in Colombia for protesting absurd attacks against the Colombian Government and nationality?

[Silva] "(?No). The ambassador, following instructions from the president and the foreign minister [words indistinct]. I believe it is legitimate to express disagreement and rejection of attitudes that are unacceptable. I am not saying we must not act the way we must [words indistinct].

[Arizmendi] "But why do you speak of hysteria?"

[Silva] If you [words indistinct] hysteria, witch hunt, rumors, [words indistinct]. "One feels there is a desire (?to be belligerent).

[Arizmendi] "Have you planned to take any action against the UPI for the report it disseminated to its subscribers?"

[Silva] Yesterday, they (?answered) [words indistinct]. (?I should call today) to talk to the director [words indistinct]. Those who wrote the report (?called) directly to write an updated dispatch [words indistinct]. Some say all they sought was to amend a mistake [words indistinct]. Consequently, I could not give them an explanation when all they sought was to [words indistinct] of the dispatch with certain statements by the ambassador claiming they had done good journalistic work. We will send a note to the UPI director expressing our disagreement with the journalistic quality of the report and (?the manner in which the news dispatch) was handled. [Words indistinct] "they did not like the commentary and have proceeded to say the Embassy does not want to cooperate with information that is completely false. The first dispatch appeared at 1112 in the morning. The Embassy was contacted to comment on it at 2052 that evening. This shows there is no interest in learning about any other opinion or giving the report a more unbiased treatment.

[Arizmendi] "If the U.S. position is clear—that is, if the situation is absolutely clear for the U.S. Government—why doesn't the State Department issue a communique categorically explaining all this [words indistinct]?"

[Silva] I believe we are in a process in which [words indistinct] adverse (?climate) [words indistinct] president-elect [words indistinct] meetings he will hold in the next few days with the participation of the designate-ministers of defense, foreign relations, and justice [words indistinct]. "I believe it will be a process of mutual understanding and of wanting to overcome these problems [words indistinct]."

[Arizmendi] "Did you attend the meeting held by the president-elect with State Department officials in New York?

[Silva] "Yes.

[Arizmendi] "[Words indistinct] says during the meeting the State Department officials (?read) the criminal charges [acta de delitos]; is this true?

[Silva] "It is completely false and [words indistinct] the UPI. It is completely false [words indistinct] from the beginning to the end. It is a lie [words indistinct].

[Arizmendi] "Regarding the same matter and because you were present at the meeting, is it true the State Department representatives suggested to Dr. Samper that he withdraw General Octavio Vargas Silva, as it has been reported in Colombia?

[Silva] "[Words indistinct], the truth, Dario, that I believe it is not for me to disclose the content of the talks, because [words indistinct] the new administration.

[Arizmendi] "To what extent does the United States have the right to demand a moral passport from any country—Colombia in this case—due to some tapes the Attorney General's Office has said had been mutilated, edited, altered with superimposed phrases, and even cut, thus eliminating the essence of the document. These are tapes that are completely (?illegal). Can a foreign country meddle in a process that is being investigated by Colombian authorities? Isn't this abusing our national sovereignty?

[Silva] "The U.S. Government has not officially expressed a will or interest to interfere (?in our affairs) [words indistinct]. Do you believe President Gaviria who has said in several recent speeches—and the foreign minister has stated it in her note to the State Department—the policy [words indistinct] is the exclusive result of the country's sovereign decision. Colombia [words indistinct], because it is the best for the Colombian people and democracy [words indistinct], which is the best for the country.

[Arizmendi] "How do you feel about Police Director Gen. Vargas Silva delivering to three reporters—Manuel Monsalve of Caracol Network, Gloria Congote of QAP News, and Francisco Javier Diaz of TV Today—a photocopy of the UPI dispatch in his office? UPI has practically no subscribers in Colombia; how could this happen? Did the embassy send the report to Gen. Vargas Silva?"

[Silva] [Words indistinct].

[Arizmendi] Could it have been the military attache?

[Silva] [words indistinct].

Police Director Denies U.S. Canceled Visa

PA1607025494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2037 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 15 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Colombian Police Director General Octavio Vargas today denied the United States had canceled his entry visa, as reported by the international media.

"I have not received any notification regarding the issue," Vargas said. He went on to contend that recent reports are part of a smear campaign that "is after my head and designed to damage the country's image."

The Colombian police director explained he was awaiting an announcement from U.S. authorities to clarify reported moves to block his entry into the United States. An international news agency reported yesterday that Washington had canceled a meeting with Vargas this week after a secret tape recording linked him to drug trafficking. According to the report, in light of the evidence, the Colombian official is being restricted from entering U.S. territory.

"I believe this is an outrageous, sickening ploy which in no way is true and must end," the police director said, adding: "This only benefits criminals."

In statements published in today's edition of the influential newspaper EL TIEMPO, Vargas reiterated that his conscience is clear, because "I have had one line of conduct all of my life, and now, as director general, I am not going to break my oath or the honorable conduct I have followed during my 38 years of service."

When questioned about whether he would take an active role in the struggle against the Cali cartel, as he did with the Medellin cartel, the police officer replied that undoubtedly, yes, I will take on the leadership and I will not have any problems." [no opening quotation marks as received]

Gen. Vargas headed the operations that ended with the death of Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar on 2 December in Medellin, the country's second largest city.

President Not To Tolerate U.S. Pressure in Anti-Drug Fight

PA1607011794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Report by Marta Rojas from the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria today reiterated his decision not to tolerate any pressure from the U.S. Government. Today in Barranquilla, he said our nation, with the help of the international community, is continuing to implement an autonomous policy—a policy that does not accept any foreign preconditions. He expressed confidence that the next government will be able to continue the struggle against drug trafficking activities without any foreign pressure.

[Begin Gaviria recording] Like most Colombians, I have confidence that the government of President Samper will continue the struggle against drug trafficking. This is a struggle the Colombian people have decided to carry out independently, and not because it has been imposed on them. At this point, I believe this should satisfy the international community. The president should not be subjected to so much pressure and so many doubts. I believe he has to be allowed to act. [end recording]

Drug Director Says Country at 'Vanguard' of Antidrug Effort

PA1607011894 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Report by Liliana Gutierrez from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] The much publicized U.S. aid to Colombia for its counternarcotics effort is only $40 million a year. Here is an interview with National Drug Director Gabriel De Vega by Liliana Gutierrez:

[Begin recording] [Gutierrez] By how many millions of dollars has the budget for Colombia been reduced?

[De Vega] Last year the U.S. budget for Colombia was approximately $60 million. As a result of the general reduction in the U.S. drug policy abroad, that aid was reduced to approximately $40 million this year.

[Gutierrez] Is your institution worried by the fact that the U.S. Senate today said no more aid for Colombia?

[De Vega] What the Senate really voted on was to make Colombia's aid conditional; in other words, the U.S. Government must certify that Colombia is cooperating in the struggle against drug trafficking. Based on that objective fact, the truth is that anyone, including us, can attest to the fact that Colombia is at the vanguard of the struggle against drug trafficking. It is the country where the most drugs are confiscated. [end recording]

Sanin: U.S. Aid Will Be Rejected if Conditions Imposed

PA1607005694 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0012 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Statement by Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin, broadcast on the "24 Hours" newscast—recorded]

[Text] Independent from the U.S. Government's or Congress' interest in reiterating their interest in the struggle against drug trafficking, Colombia is not willing to accept unilateral criteria on performance or the use of arbitrary certification procedures.

Thus the national government announces that if the amendment proposed at several levels is approved and the law passed by the Clinton administration, Colombia will unilaterally reject any type of aid from the United States for this purpose and will, consequently, not accept the proposed certification procedure.

In such a situation, we will make all the necessary budget adjustments to make up for the U.S. aid and continue our

policy against drug trafficking, which is the product of Colombians' deep convictions, not an imposition. Thank you.

'Text' of Statement

PA1607015494 Paris AFP in Spanish 0112 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 15 Jul (AFP)—Colombia announced on Friday it will reject U.S. aid to fight drug trafficking if the Clinton administration makes the aid conditional upon a written certification that the government of that country will intensify the fight against drug mafias.

Foreign Relations Minister Noemi Sanin read a statement to journalists in which she referred to the amendment approved on Friday by the U.S. Senate on aid to Colombia, which was indeed frozen pending a written statement from Santa Fe de Bogota authorities.

According to reports datelined in Washington, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved (94 votes in favor, 0 opposed) an amendment sponsored by Senator Jesse Helms to suspend aid to Colombia until the aforementioned certification is received.

This issue, which is part of the recent deterioration in U.S.-Colombia relations over drug trafficking, elicited general disapproval. Legislators, the church, the Attorney General's Office, the Prosecutor General's Office, and business leaders have expressed their strong opposition to the measure adopted by the U.S. Senate.

The U.S. Government has complained of what they called Colombia's "soft" judicial treatment of drug traffickers and has demanded that more energy be put into persecuting the leadership of the Cali cartel, responsible, according to the DEA, for 70 percent of the cocaine consumed in the United States.

This latest incident comes on the heels of the scandal created here by anonymous reports that the aforementioned criminal organization financed the campaign of President-elect Ernesto Samper, who, along with the outgoing government and other officials, emphatically denied the report.

Following is the text of Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin's declaration on the issue:

"1. We have always viewed the aid Colombia receives from the United States, the European Union, and many other countries for its struggle against drug trafficking as a sign of solidarity and international cooperation to assist a country that is doing all it can in this battle against an international crime.

"However, the amount of aid is minimal in comparison to the amount of resources Colombia spends on the struggle against drug trafficking. The amount of these resources, without taking into account the enormous economic and social costs, can be seen primarily in the human lives we have lost because of narcoterrorism.

"In terms of aid received from the United States, it has been substantially reduced over the past two years.

"2. Colombia has never considered that this aid gives any country or government the right to define the course of our drug policy.

"3. The Colombian Government is willing to discuss with the United States, as well as any other country, ways to increase the efficiency of our policies or procedures. Nevertheless, this must be based on international cooperation founded on mutual respect for our sovereignty, on agreement concerning our responsibilities and the responsibilities of all parties involved, and within the framework of an effort that should have an international character.

"4. Independent from the U.S. Government's or Congress' interest in reiterating their interest in the struggle against drug trafficking, Colombia is not willing to accept unilateral criteria on performance or the use of arbitrary certification procedures.

"Thus, the national government announces that if the amendment proposed at several levels is approved and the law is passed by the Clinton administration, Colombia will unilaterally reject any type of aid from the United States for this purpose and consequently, will not accept the proposed certification procedure.

"In such a situation, we will make all the necessary budget adjustments to make up for the U.S. aid and continue our policy against drug trafficking, which is the product of Colombians' deep convictions, not an imposition. "

'Deterioration' in Relations With U.S. Assessed

PA1707034594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Report by Daniel Garcia Pena from the "AM/PM" newscast]

[Text] The deterioration in relations between Colombia and the United States is coming at a time when President Bill Clinton faces the need to improve his image amid many domestic problems. What is it that the United States wants?

The DEA has criticized the Colombian Government for a long time. The funny thing now, however, is that the DEA position is gaining ground in other areas of the U.S. Government, such as the Senate, which used to be more sensitive to the Colombian situation. The "AM/PM" newscast has learned that there is strong support in the State Department for what sources have called a reasonable doubt concerning President-elect Ernesto Samper's drug trafficking connections, despite the fact that the department publicly rejected the UPI report. Meanwhile, Clinton has sent a letter of support to the president-elect.

[Begin international affairs analyst Juan Tokatlan recording, identified by caption] One cannot help but perceive a certain schizophrenia in the messages coming from Washington. On the surface, they are offering cooperation, closer relations, and a willingness to work

together. Underneath this, however, the bureaucracy is impairing cooperation and collaboration and promoting a very serious conflict. [end recording]

The "AM/PM" newscast also has learned that the gringos are pressuring Colombia to buy the radar sites at Leticia and Araracuara for $35 million. This would save them the maintenance costs and problems that could result if the radars were used in the accidental downing of an airplane. The Senate decision to suspend U.S. aid in the war on drugs is another example of the new developments.

[Begin Gabriel de Vega, director of the National Drug Directorate, recording, identified by caption] This is an important contribution to the ongoing narcotics interdiction activities in the country. It would be a significant blow that would only benefit the drug traffickers. [end recording]

An important first indication that could prove to be a barometer for future relations will be the rank of the official Clinton sends to the Samper inauguration. It is said that Vice President Al Gore, who would be entrusted the mission under normal circumstances, is not coming. There is speculation that the delegation could include U.S. drug czar Lee Brown, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which would constitute a very clear message to the new Colombian president. The most important thing about the recent events is that the discussion is no longer simply about the terms of the relationship between Colombia and the United States, but about the relationship itself.

Security Forces Capture EPL Leader

PA1507184594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jul 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] In the last few hours, authorities have captured the EPL's [Popular Liberation Army] second in command, after Francisco Caraballo. The DAS [Administrative Department of Security] captured Oscar Manuel Pacheco, alias Capibara, as he was making a banking transaction in Monteria. Alberto Julio Ordonez filed this report from that city.

[Ordonez] The 28-year-old native of Tierralta, Cordoba Department, and member of the EPL dissidence is accused of being part of the Los Luchos group, headed by El Guajiro, who was recently captured by the DAS and who participated in the murder of Spanish priest Javier Cirujano Arjona in Bolivar Department.

Capibara is wanted by the Prosecutor's Office in Atlantico Department for rebellion and terrorism. He is apparently blamed for extortion and kidnapping of ranchers in Cordoba and Sucre Departments and for murdering several former EPL members who have rejoined society.

The DAS announced that Capibara will be transferred to the capital of Atlantico Department in the next few hours.

FARC Members Attack Military Camp, Kill 45 Soldiers

PA1507171394 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1622 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] In the municipality of [word indistinct], in the Lusitania region specifically, an alleged front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] attacked a military camp at dawn, murdering at least 45 soldiers. According to the first reports received by Emisoras Caracol Network, it appears to be an attack executed by at least 400 guerrillas.

Caracol has just confirmed from official sources at least 45 soldiers were literally massacred by a FARC front that operates in the municipality of [word indistinct], in Lusitania specifically. The attack was launched against a squad of 70 men. It appears there are several wounded, many seriously.

Attack Leaves 24 Dead; Army Suspects FARC

PA1507193594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Jul 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Approximately 24 dead and an undetermined number of wounded and missing soldiers are the result of an apparent attack by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] this morning. The incident occurred in El Libano, Orito Municipality, in Putumayo.

According to the authorities, 400 armed men arrived in El Libano and took the soldiers who were guarding an oil field by surprise. A similar action occurred on 7 November in 1972 when FARC members killed 26 policemen in that very same place.

Army Commander General Hernan Jose Guzman has just issued a statement on the killing of more than 20 soldiers in Putumayo early today:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What is the exact number you have?

[Guzman] I already told you. There were three noncommissioned officers and 19 soldiers killed. Two soldiers, one noncommissioned officer, and five people were wounded. This is the official report we have so far. We will confirm when we find out more.

[Reporter] What is the military doing in that area?

[Guzman] We are protecting Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] installations in that sector.

[Reporter] Who did it?

[Guzman] I do not know. We are confirming that. It could be the FARC. [end recording]

'Farewell to Gaviria' Plot by 'Guerrilla Groups' Uncovered

PA1607214494 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1756 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 16 Jul (DPA)—According to news reports released today, communist guerrilla groups operating in Colombia are conducting an operation called "Farewell to President Gaviria," which began yesterday with a bloody attack that killed 17 soldiers.

The Armed Forces High Command is studying documents that contain details of the plot, and it has alerted all garrisons in advance of an anticipated wave of terrorism during the Gaviria administration's final days. Ernesto Samper will succeed President Gaviria on 7 August.

The plot reportedly was set in motion yesterday with an attack by the Marxist-Leninist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] against a military base located in the small town of El Libano in Putumayo Department, where 17 soldiers and 15 rebels were killed.

Reports indicated that about 300 FARC members surrounded the base in the early morning and opened fire with submachine guns, rockets, and grenades, leaving three soldiers wounded while another three were declared "missing."

Following the attack on the soldiers who were guarding an oil installation, armed FARC groups attacked—between last night and early this morning—the airports in the city of Puerto Asis and the town of Villa Garzon, also in Putumayo, causing huge financial losses.

Sources also reported that members of the group tried to launch an offensive against Mocoa, the capital of Putumayo. They fled after realizing police were aware of their plans.

According to Eli Ramirez, mayor of the town of Ortizo, which is located 20 km from the targeted military base, the guerrilla attack came in revenge for Army activities. The Army recently seized an enormous stockpile of explosives and weapons the FARC had purchased in Ecuador and was attempting to smuggle into the country.

Military sources, however, told domestic news media that the recent increase in rebel attacks was part of an operation called "Farewell to Gaviria." These sources claim the operation is being waged by rebels angered over the government's refusal to acquiesce to their demands during a failed peace process. Negotiations between the Gaviria administration and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB) took place in 1991 and 1992 in Venezuela and Mexico. The talks broke off, however, following guerrilla incursions and an impasse at the bargaining table.

Gaviria is ending his term after signing peace agreements with the largest faction within the Popular Liberation Army (EPL), the Workers Revolutionary Party, the Quintin Lame Commando Unit Indian organization, and the Socialist Renewal Movement (CRS). Nevertheless, there are still 10,000 armed members of the CNGSB, which comprises the FARC, a dissident faction of the EPL, and the Army of National Liberation (ELN)—all of which were formed in the 1960's.

Army Declares State of Alert Due to CGSB Attacks

PA1607204294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1834 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 16 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Colombian Army declared itself in a state of alert today and intensified its operations throughout most of the country due to heightened guerrilla attacks. At least 33 people, soldiers, civilians, and rebels were killed during the first day of attacks.

Military sources have announced special forces are pursuing the members of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB) who killed 16 soldiers who were guarding a "Trans-Andean" oil pumping station in southern Colombia yesterday.

The report adds high-ranking Army officers visited the site of the attack, located 900 km from Santa Fe de Bogota, to coordinate the search operation today.

Meanwhile, the rebels have continued their attacks in various areas of the country. During one of these attacks, the CGSB caused serious damage to a runway at the Puerto Asis airport in the southern department of Putumayo near the Ecuadoran border. The rebels used three bombs to destroy the runway.

Likewise, another rebel column destroyed the control tower in Villa Garzon, located in the same region where they attacked the soldiers guarding the pumping station.

Another group of rebels attacked the headquarters of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) in Apartado, Antioquia Department. Three policemen were wounded in this attack. According to the report, this incident occurred when 15 rebels, traveling in a truck, fired shots at the heavily guarded building this morning.

The CGSB kidnapped four mayors, harassed at least two police stations, and attacked Army and police patrols during the past two days. These actions are being interpreted as pressure against the government of President-elect Ernesto Samper, who will be sworn in on 7 August, to resume the negotiations process.

The increase in rebel activity began in Santa Fe de Bogota with the burning of seven buses the night of 14 July. The attack was carried out by alleged urban commands of the CGSB.

'Guerrilla Groups' Continue Attacks; Soldier Killed

PA1707193994 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1811 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Santa Fe de Bogota, 17 Jul (DPA)—Colombian authorities have reported the guerrilla groups operating in Colombia today continued their offensive that began on 15

July with an attack against a military base. The rebels killed a soldier during an ambush today and burned three vehicles at a "checkpoint" set up in the northern department of Cesar.

Authorized spokespersons have said alleged members of the Marxist-Leninist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) blocked the road and torched a bus and two tractor trailers that were transiting between the departments of Cesar and Santander.

The violent action ended when a military patrol approached the area after being advised of the existence of a rebel "checkpoint." A soldier was killed in the skirmish. [passage omitted]

Troops Dispatched to Putumayo; FARC Fires on Helicopter

PA1807025094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Report by correspondent Oscar Galvis from Orito, Putumayo Department; from the "AM/PM" newscast]

[Text] Everything seems to indicate that a lack of foresight and strategic shortcomings were responsible for the recent attack and killings carried out by the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] against soldiers in Orito, Putumayo Department.

The attack against a pumping station in Orito, which left 17 soldiers dead, proves that no effective intelligence or military strategies exist. The Armed Forces have gone from assuming an offensive posture to taking up a defensive one, and now the Armed Forces' only purpose is to display a physical presence. Most of the recent guerrilla attacks and ambushes had been anticipated. [video cuts to show Galvis interviewing an unidentified soldier lying in a hospital bed]

[Begin recording] [Galvis] Were you afraid that this attack might take place? Did you have any advance information?

[Soldier] Not really, but we had been warned. [video cuts to outside, where an unidentified military officer in fatigues is being interviewed]

[Galvis] Officer, what are the living conditions of your soldiers here?

[Officer] They live in subhuman conditions, as you can see. [end recording]

Using a machine gun, the FARC's 32d Front attacked a Soviet-built HK-3908 [as heard] helicopter carrying troops to the conflict zone. Seventeen 0.762 caliber bullets hit the aircraft. It was lucky the helicopter did not crash.

Meanwhile, in the Putumayo area, private vehicles are being painted with slogans and their drivers are being threatened.

Helicopter gunships and troops were dispatched to the area two days after the soldiers were killed, but they were unable to land because of bad weather in the region.

Ecuador

Colombia's Sanin To Cancel Visit

PA1607021094 Paris AFP in Spanish 2305 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Quito, Jul 15 (AFP)—Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio has canceled her visit to Ecuador, where she was scheduled to decorate Ecuadoran Vice President Alberto Dahik tonight, Colombian Ambassador to Ecuador Gustavo Castro told AFP. The cancellation was announced at the airport, where everything was set for the Colombian foreign minister's scheduled arrival of 1630 (2130 GMT).

Castro reported that the foreign minister decided to remain in Santa Fe de Bogota because of the four "narcocassettes" that have appeared, and because of U.S. criticism of the Colombian Government for not doing enough to combat drug trafficking. Dahik will be now decorated by Ambassador Castro.

Army Guarding Colombian Border Near Attack Site

PA1507205294 Paris AFP in Spanish 1916 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Quito, 15 Jul (AFP)—Colonel Alberto Molina, press director of the National Defense Ministry, has told AFP that members of the Ecuadoran Army are guarding the border with neighboring Colombia in the Amazonia area where guerrillas attacked and killed about 24 Colombian soldiers early Friday morning.

"The Army is conducting continuous land, river, and air patrols along the border with Colombia," the officer added.

Molina thus ruled out the possibility that the rebels responsible for the killings will try to enter Ecuadoran territory to escape the Colombian military.

Molina emphasized that "the 19 Napo Jungle Brigade is responsible for control within Ecuadoran territory in the Amazonia area."

It was learned in Quito that about 24 Colombian soldiers and seven rebels were killed early Friday morning when approximately 400 members of the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) attacked a military base near Orito, a town in Putumayo Department, that borders with the Ecuadoran province of Sucumbios.

Peru

Fujimori Discusses Repentance Law Cancellation

PY1507233694 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpts] After pointing out the importance of the repentance law in the antiterrorist struggle, President Alberto Fujimori announced that the possibility of abrogating this law is being assessed. The chief of state added that those terrorists who wish to benefit from this law still have time to do so. Fujimori made this comment after distributing the keys to the owners of the repaired apartment buildings

on Tarata Street, Miraflores neighborhood [where Shining Path perpetrated an attack with a car bomb in mid-1992].

[Begin Fujimori recording] This is a warning to those who still believe they can continue sowing violence in Peru. The political decision does not only belong to the government but also to the entire Peruvian people. We are not going to take a single step backward in this struggle against the Shining Path. We will consolidate peace in the year 1995 because the Peruvian people deserve it, because in Peru we are going to strive for development, we are going to fight poverty and violence, so that Peru may definitely take the path of progress. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin Fujimori recording] At some point we are going to set the day on which we will cancel this repentance law and we want to clearly warn the terrorists that we are not going to give up this struggle against terrorism. [end recording]

Fujimori Affirms Confidence In Justice Minister

PY1607012294 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has affirmed his full confidence in Justice Minister Fernando Vega Santagadea and dismissed the criticisms against him by certain sectors of the opposition.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] The justice minister enjoys my full confidence. Daniel Espichan, special prosecutor for terrorist crimes, has done and continues to do a good job. We must not forget that the situation during the first years of my government were very difficult and many people placed their life at stake.

Every administration makes mistakes, but the general results are positive. If not, we would not be here chatting happily and peacefully, with the peace that the people here on Tarata Street, for example, enjoy.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Fujimori] For the time being, he has a post. I repeat, we must acknowledge the job done by the justice ministers and prosecutors and, in general, all public servants who have served these past years. [end recording]

Cooperation With Chilean Military To Increase

PY1607030694 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Jul 94 p A6

[Text] Several agreements that will be instrumental in achieving the economic and social development of Chile and Peru were signed during the ninth round of talks between the high commands of both countries' armed forces, which was held at a hotel in the Miraflores neighborhood.

In the course of the five-day meeting, the Chilean and Peruvian delegations, headed by Air Force General Fernando Rojas Vender and Peruvian Navy Vice Admiral Luis Giampietri Rojas, respectively, signed important agreements geared to increasing cooperation and understanding between their respective Armed Forces.

It was reported that these agreements evince the ties of friendship and comradeship existing between both countries.

At the end of their deliberations, both delegations were received by President Alberto Fujimori, who was duly informed about the aforementioned agreements.

During their closing remarks, the heads of both delegations underscored the spirit of cooperation that inspired their actions.

The round of talks between the high commands took place at a time when the governments of the Pacific basin countries are striving to raise their countries up from underdevelopment.

It was agreed that the 10th round of talks between the military high commands will be held in Santiago, Chile, during the second half of 1995.

Colombia's Gaviria Visits, Reaffirms Position on Drugs

PA1807000894 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 12 Jul 94 p 8A

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria arrived last night in Lima for a 24-hour official visit. This is the last trip he will make during his four-year term in office, which ends on 7 August.

Although no details of the initial meeting between Presidents Alberto Fujimori and Cesar Gaviria were disclosed, it was reported that the agenda included issues such as legal assistance, health policies for border communities, and tourism plans. In addition, they are believed to have discussed drug trafficking, terrorism, trade, and the integration process.

Local commentators said the fact that Gaviria, who is the OAS secretary general-elect, chose to visit Peru at the twilight of his administration is a special honor that will serve to improve the normally friendly relations between the two countries.

The Colombian president arrived with Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin, Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez, Health Minister Juan Luis Londono, Development Minister Mauricio Cardenas, his wife Ana Milena Munoz, and his daughter Maria Paz.

The City Council declared the chief of state an "illustrious guest" of Lima and awarded him the keys to the city. The day's events concluded with a private dinner hosted by Fujimori. Members of the cabinet and representatives from the diplomatic community, among others, were present.

During his speech, Gaviria highlighted the ties that unite Peruvians and Colombians, who also enjoy the privileges of being neighbors, Andean and Amazon nations, and witnesses "to the future through the window that looks over the Pacific Basin."

He also stressed: "My country has never let down its guard in terms of drug trafficking, as some would argue. The truth is quite the opposite, and anyone who has done more than Colombia in attempting to end drug production and trafficking—efforts that have proven costly in terms of human lives and economic resources—may throw the first stone."

He added: "We reject insinuations that my country is not doing enough. Such suggestions are insulting. Colombians are doing more than enough. We are waging a war, which is not ours alone, and we are doing it almost by ourselves. This war belongs to the international community in general, and, in particular, to the consumer nations. From these nations, we expect effective cooperation and not merely criticism and obstruction."

Gaviria returns to Colombia later this afternoon.

Venezuela

Ministry Refuses To Confirm Expulsion of Iranian Diplomats

PA1707040694 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 15 Jul 94 p 1-1

[Text] Venezuela has expelled four Iranian Embassy officials following a serious diplomatic incident.

Although both the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry and the Iranian Embassy in Caracas refused to confirm the report, EL UNIVERSAL was able to learn the details of the crisis that prompted the intervention of the chief of the office of the UNHCR.

According to the exclusive report obtained by this newspaper, several refugees persecuted by the Iranian Government arrived in Maiquetia recently. A group of Iranian Embassy officials reportedly kidnapped the refugees at gunpoint and tried to detain them at the Embassy in an effort to repatriate them.

The Foreign Ministry was informed of the incident and was able to rescue them with the help of the UNHCR.

The next day, the Venezuelan Government, through the Foreign Ministry, demanded that the four diplomatic officials involved in the incident leave Venezuela. This incident took place at a time when Iran is objecting to Venezuelan Alirio Parra's candidacy for the post of OPEC secretary general.

Minister on Suspension of Guarantees' Goals

PA1707133594 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jul 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Excerpt] The suspension of guarantees is basically aimed at hoarding and speculation, said Development Minister Alberto Poletto and Lorenzo Tovar, president of the IDEC [Consumer Defense and Education Institute], when summoned by the bicameral commission in charge of analyzing the decree suspending the guarantees. Poletto said it would have been impossible to struggle against hoarders without the government measures:

[Begin Poletto recording, in progress] ...regarding Article 62 on the inviolability of [words indistinct], because within the context of the emergency situation through which the country is going, the national government has deemed it necessary to reinforce several economic measures, which have already been explained in depth, pertaining to the banking sector, as well as prices, particularly controls. Those measures are complemented by direct actions that will also permit the detection of individuals who are supposedly committing the crime of speculation and hoarding.

Within the context of the country's current crisis, all these economic problems and [words indistinct] can be used and, in fact, are used by certain minorities. I want to make it clear we are not talking about all merchants but, rather, a small minority that is taking advantage of the imbalance and national emergency for personal gain. [end recording]

Meanwhile, after supporting Poletto's position, IDEC President Lorenzo Tovar explained how the searches are being conducted and the destination of money obtained from sales of confiscated goods:

[Begin Tovar recording] A penal court and not the IDEC must determine whether or not there is hoarding in these cases. The IDEC only establishes the characteristics of the procedures which the business sector follows, and the court determines whether or not there is hoarding. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Official Says Guarantees To Remain Suspended

PA1807041294 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Report by Giovanni Esposito from Maracaibo; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Interior Ministry Policy Director Eduardo Coello has reported in Maracibo that the suspension of constitutional guarantees will remain in effect because the problems that prompted the presidential decree mandating the suspension of guarantees continue to exist.

On behalf of the interior minister, Eduardo Coello presided over ceremonies marking Police Day in Zulia State.

[Begin Coello recording, in progress] ...can restore normalcy. However, as long as we are unable to control the economic, productive, and commercial process—in other words, the chain between producers and consumers—we will be forced to maintain the necessary controls. This will permit us to combat hoarding and speculation, which is the primary purpose behind these measures. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Eduardo Coello said the Interior Ministry is preparing to reorganize and decentralize regional police forces and the Diex [Directorate of Identification Alien Affairs] in an effort to heighten rural and urban security.

OCI Director on Emergency Economic Measures

PA1707133694 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jul 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Minister Guillermo Alvarez Bajares, director of the Central Information Office, OCI, has said President Caldera's government has not violated any constitutional article by applying emergency economic measures. During the inauguration of the 50th annual assembly of the Federation of Associations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Alvarez thus responded to statements made by Venezuelan businessmen who expressed their disagreement with the measures announced in a speech delivered by President Caldera.

Alvarez denied Caldera described Venezuelan bankers and businessmen as mafiosi. He added Caldera clearly referred to individuals within the business and banking sectors who have diverted public funds.

Commission To Study Suspension of Guarantees

PA1507155094 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Report by Cecilia Cayonne; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] In a joint session lasting three and a half hours and during which 11 congressmen spoke, Democratic Action [AD] managed to win a majority of votes for its proposal to appoint a bicameral commision to study the presidential decree suspending constitutional guarantees. AD's proposal was supported by National Convergence and MAS [Movement Toward Socialism]. On the other hand, Causa R [Radical Cause Party], the party that proposed complete reinstatement of guarantees, abstained from voting, as did COPEI [Social Christian Party], which proposed reinstating individual guarantees.

In this sense deputy Ramon Guillermo Aveledo, head of the green party [Social Christian Party] bench, explained his party's attitude toward studying the presidential decree.

[Begin Aveledo recording] We think that the guarantees whose reinstatement we proposed should have been reinstated today, above all those having to do with personal freedoms or individual citizens' rights. Now we shall work from within the designated commission to try to reinstate as soon as possible those guarantees, which the government has not used for any of the economic measures it has taken. Until now, it has used them carelessly and stupidly in actions for which it has ended up having to excuse itself. [end recording]

It should be emphasized that Radical Cause said during the debate that it would not take part in the commission. But this position could be reconsidered by its congressmen.

Finally, it must be emphasized that the commission must formally question the interior, finance, development, and defense ministers, as well as the presidential secretary, and should present a report within seven days.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 2112 GMT on 12 July, in a 400-word Caracas-datelined item, explains that a vote on the presidential decree has been postponed until 20 July and described this as a "first-round victory" for President Caldera in a Congress that is divided over support for his move to suspend constitutional guarantees.]

Minister To Explain Price Controls

PA1607045694 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Report by Vicente Briceno from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Development Minister Alberto Poletto has warned that an excessive drop in prices could spark shortages in the country.

Minister Poletto defended the staples regulation list recommended by his ministry in light of heightening criticism over the fact that many of the goods on the list are being sold at prices far greater than what is being offered on the market.

The development minister announced that next Sunday he will be travelling to Colombia accompanied by the finance vice minister and a delegation representing the private sector. The goal of the trip is to explain to Colombian officials and businessmen the temporary nature of the measures adopted by the government which, according to the minister, in no way should affect the trade integration process taking place between both nations.

[Begin Poletto recording, in progress] ...is the reason why prices cannot fall too much and must remain at an international level [words indistinct]. If we take an article and cut its price too much, then what is going to happen is that [word indistinct] will flee to Colombia and we will end up without a product. Therefore we must fix...[pauses]. That is the reason why it is not easy to cut prices. It is easy to say let us cut prices, but we have to be on the lookout for other things. [end recording]

Government To Present Macroeconomic Plan

PA1807042994 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Jul 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] At a news conference with foreign reporters, Economy Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez announced the government is getting ready to unveil its overall macroeconomic plan. The Caldera administration will implement the plan over the next few years. Specialists at the Venezuelan Petroleum Corporation, the Venezuelan Central Bank, and the Treasury Ministry are currently reviewing the economic adjustment plan.

The economic strategy includes an increase in gasoline prices, a boost in the privatization process, and new controls. The minister said the government hopes to lift its

currency exchange and price controls in the first few months of next year. This will depend on whether the government is able to control the fiscal deficit.

Meanwhile, the Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry [FEDECAMARAS] expressed its support for Sosa's announcement. FEDECAMARAS President Edgardo Romero Nava held a news conference at the organization's headquarters in Caracas. He said this truly is the way to resolve the nation's problems—namely, finding ways to effectively fight inflation. In commenting on Decree 278, as announced by the government for the protection of bank assets, Romero Nava said the measure was being reviewed.

[Begin Romero recording] We must allow our legal advisers and our legal departments to give their opinions on the decree. We have always believed that laws bring about solutions. We need to punish all of those who have in fact broken the law. Once this process is complete, we can deal with the criminals. We still have to study the decree, and we hope to formulate a position by next week. [end recording]

The FEDECAMARAS president also stressed the need to reinstate constitutional guarantees as soon as possible, because the current suspension only creates distrust. Romero Nava denied reports that there was low attendance at the organization's annual general assembly meeting. He said FEDECAMARAS attendance figures prove just the opposite is true.

Air Force Leadership Changes Noted

PA1507154794 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Division General Jose Agustin Borges Blasco has been appointed new Air Force chief of staff, replacing Brigadier General Bernardo Tomas Estrada. Borges Blasco was chief of the Air Operations Command and aide to the current commander general of the Air Force, General Otto Jesgar Garcia Rivera.

The most notable of other changes was that of Brig. Gen. Antonio Maria Conde Casadiego, who was promoted to commander of Air Force Operations. Conde Casadiego was director of the Military Aviation School in Maracay when the 27 November coupists bombed their alma mater.

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